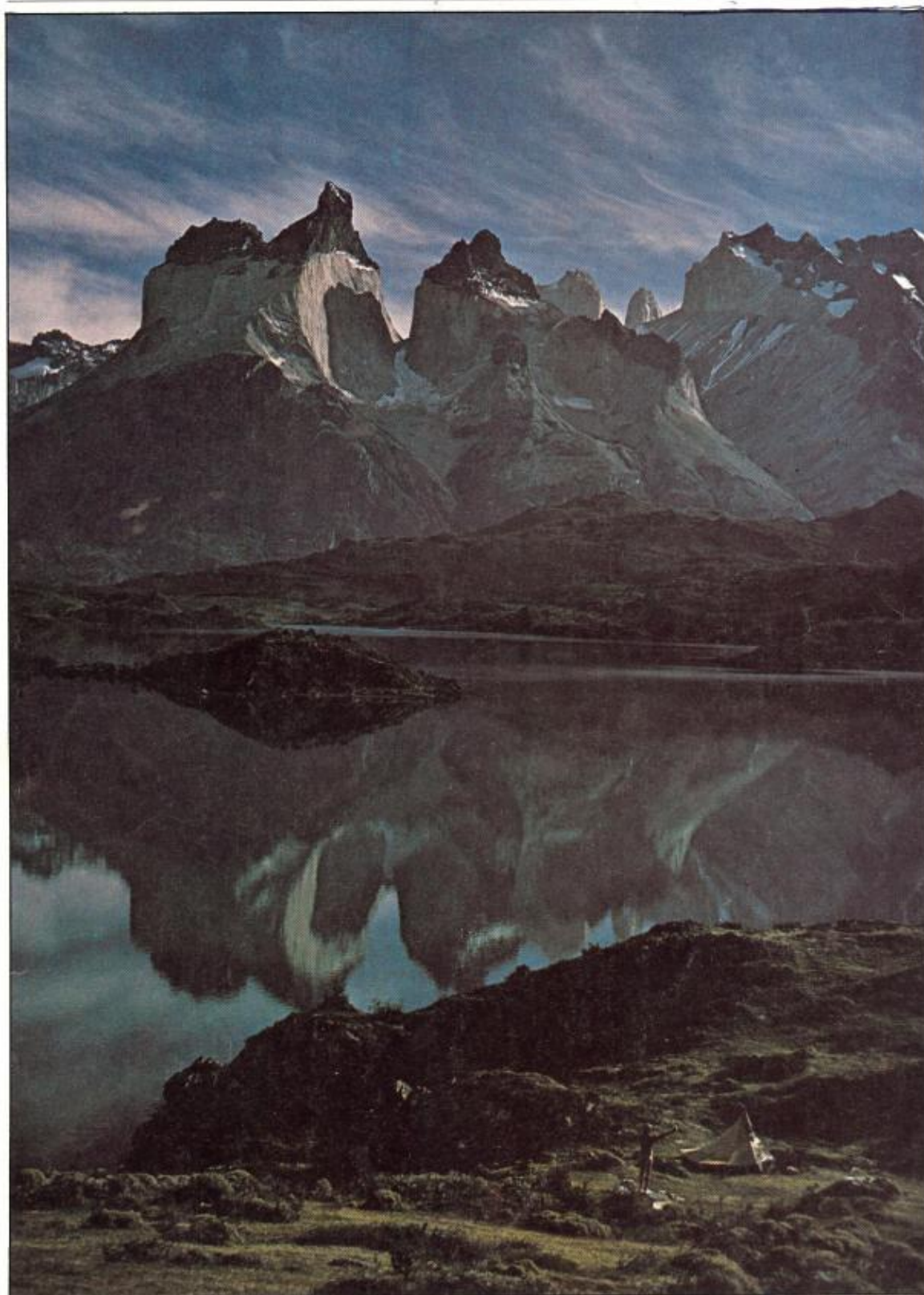


THE FALL 1975 NORTH FACE CATALOGUE



THE  
NORTH  
FACE



**T**he North Face manufactures functional outdoor equipment. Our aim is to build versatile gear for comfortable and efficient wilderness travel in all climates, conditions, and places—equipment innovatively designed and unconditionally guaranteed.

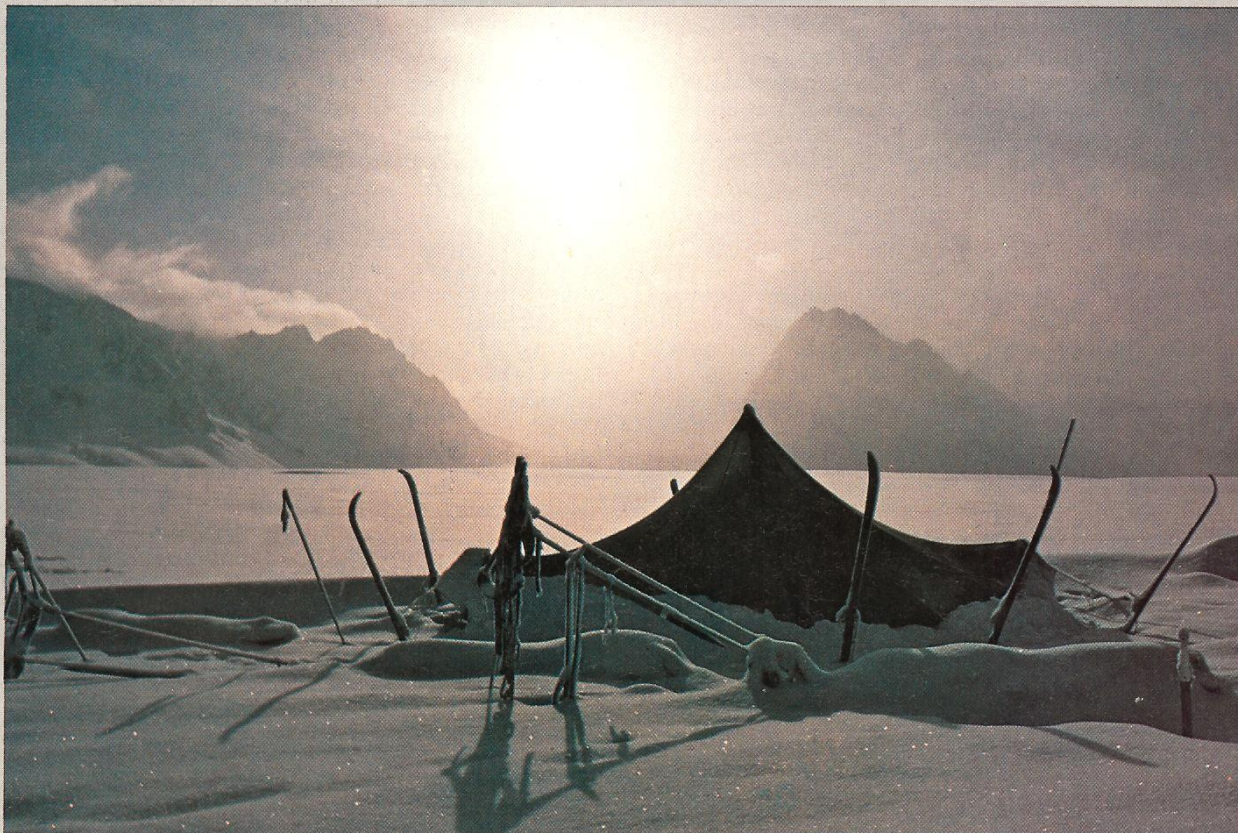
A fascination with water images and words, and with the earth's great solar-driven, water/weather cycle melds the diverse elements of this Fall Catalogue. Photographs from storm lashed Patagonia, and the first presentation of the annual North Face Ice-9 Award are found herein; not to mention the first geodesic design in backpacking shelter, the Oval Intention, a design breakthrough of the first order. Welcome to The North Face 1975!

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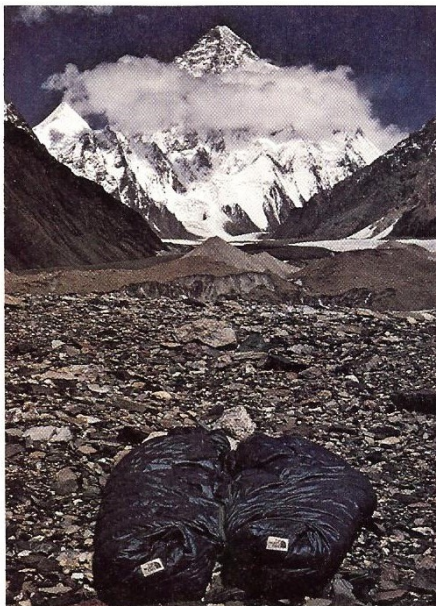
Front Cover: the Towers of Paine, by Jack Miller;  
back cover, the summit of the Gran Campo Nevado, by William Rodarmor.  
Both photos from the 1975 Patagonian Canals Expedition.



# B·A·G·S

A sleeping bag is an insulator, a construction of fabric and fill designed solely to conserve body heat by creating an unbroken layer of dry, still air around the sleeper. There are several human factors to consider in building a fine sleeping bag—the shaping, interior dimensions, ventilation adjustability, and zipper efficiency all affect the comfort, for example—and the combination of these design imperatives with advanced construction techniques and the best materials is our goal.

We manufacture eleven distinctly different models of sleeping bags, each matched to particular performance and comfort requirements. The standard features listed below all contribute to create the strength, comfort and wide-range versatility demanded by the knowledgeable outdoorsperson—yourself.



or weakest point—this is where a cold spot will develop first. Our baffles are pleated to produce an even conformance of the shell around your body, while creating a constant insulating thickness of down around you. This process takes longer to sew than a pre-contoured baffle does, but the strength of the finished product justifies the time.

**Differential Cut** This is the principle of the thermos bottle, with the inside shell being smaller in circumference and length than the outside shell. This differential allows the down to expand evenly around the bag, and prevents the inside shell from touching the outside shell, eliminating the necessary insulation thickness and creating a cold spot.

**Shaping** A contoured bag has better thermal efficiency than rectangular

designs, with less volume to be heated. Our bag designs, even the semi-rectangular ones, are tapered both above and below the elbows level. Straight sided bags are easier to cut and sew; but our method produces a more comfortable bag with less weight.

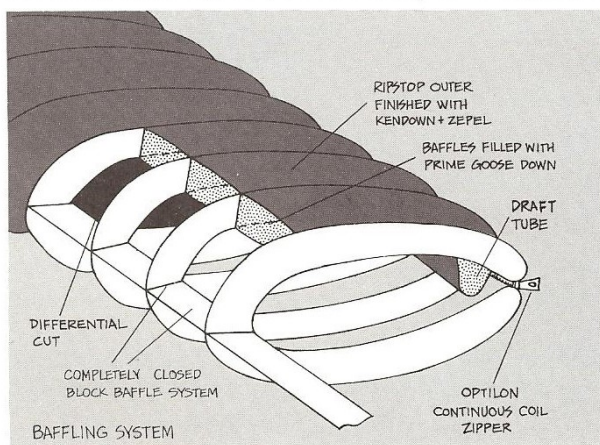
**The Hood** All our mummy bags have a generously sized hood section, with a triple action drawstring that can adjust either across the neckline only, or around the circumference of the hood, or both. The drawstring is operated by a sturdy plastic fixlock, and can be adjusted instantly by touch in the dark. The size of the hood is important because your head and neck radiate more heat than any other part of you (most of the time, anyway), and the better the hood, the warmer the bag.

**The Footpiece** A roomy foot section adds to your comfort by giving you plenty of footroom in moderate conditions, and room to stow miscellaneous clothing in cold-damp conditions. Our bags have roomy, squared foot sections, fully baffled and well filled.

**Coil Zippers** One of the strongest selling points of North Face down bags is the Optilon® coil zipper, a North Face exclusive, and the smoothest slide fastener available. There is none finer. It is significantly lighter (by 57 grams or so) than comparable toothed zippers; this allows us to utilize that advantage in roomier shaping and more down fill, for greater comfort.

**Baffling System** We use a slant box construction, filled with a precisely calibrated weight of down in each channel; and our system of completely closed, individually sewn channel blocks opposite the zipper is the strongest and best construction used by any manufacturer of down bags. An added comfort bonus of this construction is the elimination of any exposed overlapped or bias taped seam on the inside of the bag.

Some manufacturers claim a significant advantage in warmth via expanded baffle depth constructions over the top of the sleeper. However, the warmth of the bag depends on its insulation thickness and density at the thinnest





The synthetic fill bags and the Chrysalis feature a more economical #7 YKK coil zipper; thus you may now combine a Yeti with a Chrysalis for an interesting, functional double.

**Oversize Offset Draft Flap** The circumference of the draft flap in down bags is 30.4 cm (12"), with the attachment seams offset by 7.6 cm (3"). These are attached to the top of the bag in right hand zip bags, while the left zip bags have the flap attached to the bottom layer, so the two may mate with protection for both zippers. Those who believe that all draft flaps should be attached to the top layer of insulation should look closely at the Ibex on page 10.

## SYNTHETICS

North Face manufactures a complete line of sleeping bags with Fiberfill II® and PolarGuard® insulation, for those humid and wet-cold conditions where the synthetics work to best advantage.

The Bigfoot is a winter bag, with 17.8-19 cm (7-7.5") of loft, rated to 0°. It is constructed with a highly efficient overlapping batts construction, labor-intensive and very strong. The mid-range Yeti, Littlefoot, and Elephant's Foot share this innovative construction method but utilize a lighter weight batting material (8 oz. as opposed to 10 oz.) to create 12.7-15.2 cm (5.6") of loft and a temperature rating to 20°.

The new PolarGuard Cat's Meow rounds out the line; a multi-purpose recreational bag, also rated to 20°, it employs a new (patents pending) construction technique for maximizing the potential of the double offset quilted method.

## MATERIALS

All North Face sleeping bags, except the Chrysalis, are built with 1.9 oz. ripstop nylon, finished with breathable KenDown® and DuPont ZePel®. These treatments

increase the downproofness and durability of the weave; ZePel also increases the water repellency, causing water to bead up instead of soaking in.

Fabric quality control is an important factor in producing high quality equipment. Avoid fabrics that are thickly calendared, stiff and over shiny; this appearance indicates a lighter, less durable weave, treated more heavily to bring the weight up. The Littlefoot, in addition to the two treatments noted above, has a CPAI-approved flame retardant treatment as well. The Chrysalis is made from 1.5 oz. ripstop, for minimum weight. The baffling material we use is a 1.8 oz. tricot knit, except in the North Face bag, where the great shell strength allows the use of a lighter marquisette net material.

## TEMPERATURE RATINGS

Most temperature ratings are "soft" because of the variability in people and in conditions; differences in the weather, differences in the food you eat, and in your physical condition all enter into the equation, though the bags are consistent in insulation thickness and density.

So, here is a fairly accurate way to estimate the true temperature range of each bag for *you*.

Imagine a fitness scale ranging from the out of condition day hiker to the active mountaineer—and place yourself along that scale. Got it?

The ratings below represent the midpoint of a 25° range. The Ibex, for example, shows -15°. For an active mountaineer, the bag is good to at least -25° or so; but for the city slicker, it might only be comfortable to -5°.

As your experience in cold weather sleeping increases, your comfortable minimum temperature will go down a bit. Many people have found—somewhat to their surprise—that their "summer" Superlight works well for all the non-expeditionary snow camping they do. But then—"better safe than sorry."

Style	Temp. Range	Fill	Wt. Fill	Shape	Loft	Total Wt.	Length	Width at Elbows	Fits Person To	Zipper Length	Stuffed Size	Price
Bigfoot Regular	0°	Fiberfill	4 lbs.	Mummy	7 "	5 lbs.	83"	30"	5' 10"	70"	10"x20"	\$ 75.00
Bigfoot Large	0°	Fiberfill	4 lbs. 5 oz.	Mummy	7 "	5 lbs. 5 oz.	89"	30"	6' 4"	70"	10"x20"	77.50
Cat's Meow Reg.	20°	PolarGuard	2 lbs.12 oz.	Mummy	5 "	3 lbs.10 oz.	83"	30"	5' 10"	70"	10"x20"	57.50
Cat's Meow Lg.	20°	PolarGuard	3 lbs. 2 oz.	Mummy	5 "	4 lbs. 2 oz.	89"	30"	6' 4"	70"	10"x20"	59.50
Yeti Regular	20°	Fiberfill	3 lbs. 2 oz.	Rect.	5 "	5 lbs. 3 oz.	80"	32"	6'	99"	10"x20"	77.50
Yeti Large	20°	Fiberfill	3 lbs. 5 oz.	Rect.	5 "	5 lbs. 6 oz.	86"	32"	6' 6"	105"	10"x20"	79.50
Chrysalis	30°	Goosedown	1 lb. 1 oz.	Rect.	4 "	2 lbs. 1 oz.	77"	32"	6' 2"	99"	6"x16"	72.50
Superlight Reg.	5°	Goose down	1 lb. 8 oz.	Mummy	6.5-7"	3 lbs. 1 oz.	83"	30"	5' 10"	70"	7"x18"	94.50
Superlight Lg.	5°	Goose down	1 lb. 10 oz.	Mummy	6.5-7"	3 lbs. 5 oz.	89"	30"	6' 4"	70"	7"x18"	99.50
Unimog Reg.	0°	Goose down	2 lbs. 3 oz.	Rect.	7-7.5"	4 lbs. 1 oz.	80"	32"	6'	102"	9"x18"	115.00
Unimog Lg.	0°	Goose down	2 lbs. 5 oz.	Rect.	7-7.5"	4 lbs. 5 oz.	86"	32"	6' 6"	104"	9"x18"	122.50
Chamois Reg.	-5°	Goose down	1 lb. 15 oz.	Mummy	7.5-8"	3 lbs.12 oz.	86"	31"	6'	70"	9"x18"	107.50
Chamois Lg.	-5°	Goose down	2 lbs. 2 oz.	Mummy	7.5-8"	4 lbs. 1 oz.	92"	31"	6' 6"	70"	9"x18"	115.00
Ibex Regular	-15°	Goose down	2 lbs. 6 oz.	Mummy	8-8.5"	4 lbs. 3 oz.	86"	32"	6'	70"	9"x18"	117.50
Ibex Large	-15°	Goose down	2 lbs.10 oz.	Mummy	8-8.5"	4 lbs. 8 oz.	92"	32"	6' 6"	70"	9"x18"	125.00
North Face Reg.	-30°	Goose down	3 lbs.	Mummy	9.5-10	5 lbs. 4 oz.	86"	32"	6'	70"	11"x21"	155.00
North Face Lg.	-30°	Goose down	3 lbs. 3 oz.	Mummy	9.5-10	5 lbs. 8 oz.	92"	32"	6' 6"	70"	11"x21"	165.00
Littlefoot	20°	Fiberfill	1 lb. 10 oz.	Mummy	5 "	2 lbs.13 oz.	69"	26"	5'	44"	7"x18"	49.50
Elephant's Foot	15°	Fiberfill	1 lb. 2 oz.	Footsack	5 "	2 lbs. 6 oz.	64"	25"	—	—	6"x12"	45.00





### CHRYsalis

The Chrysalis is the lightest full size, fully baffled goose down sleeping bag made today. Conservatively rated to 30°, the Chrysalis functions well for cycling, kayaking, and desert trekking, since its stuffed size and weight are minimal at 936 g (33 oz) and 1989 cc (510 cubic inches). The fabric is 1.5 ounce ZePel and Kendown treated ripstop, the lightest fabric offering lifetime downproofness. The 538 grams (17 oz.) of prime goose down fill are not restrained by a side block baffle, as in all our other down bags. This feature gives the Chrysalis the advantage of greater insulation "adjustability"—with a good shake you can concentrate some two-thirds of the downfill into the top or bottom layer, to match the temperature conditions. In Georgia, Florida, and Texas you will most likely sleep on top of the down; in Montana and the Rockies it will be more effective in the top layer.

The zipper is a # 7 YKK coil which will mate with the Yeti's; both have the zipper extending completely around the bag's foot section, so they may be opened flat for use as a comforter or a double. While the light weight may imply cramped dimensions, this is not the case. A six footer may use the single size efficiently, with the ability to close down the adjustable drawstring in the top.

Color: Royal blue

One length, 195.6 cm (6'5")      936 g (2 lbs 1 oz)

\$ 72.50

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B • A • G • S / Down

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## SUPERLIGHT

The Superlight has set the standard for high thermal efficiency in a three season bag — its blend of comfort and performance is unmatched by any competitive design. This is the result of a subtle advantage inherent in the Optilon coil zipper we use; in addition to being the smoothest fastener available, and the most expensive, it is two ounces lighter than the Delrin tooth zippers found on competitive models. The benefit of this advantage is expressed in the shaping of the bag; it is comfortably roomy for almost everyone.

The Superlight is conservatively rated to 5°, with a loft of 16.5-19.2 cm (6.5-7"). 680/737 grams (24/26 ounces) of the finest prime goose down are enclosed in the super strong North Face baffle system; and the long list of standard comfort and ventilation features—double slider zipper, three way hood closure system, offset draft flap, etc—give the Superlight the wide-range comfort our bags are famous for. Why settle for less?

Colors: Navy blue, red

Regular, to 177.8 cm (5'10")	1389 g (3 lbs 1 oz)	\$ 94.50
Large, to 193 cm (6'4")	1503 g (3 lbs 5 oz)	\$ 99.50



# Insulators

The People's Republic of China still seems vague and mysterious in the minds of Americans. Richard Nixon's incredible visit with Chairman Mao is a recent memory, and its long-range ramifications are taking shape. For twenty-five years America has denied the existence of the People's Republic, and in the meantime China has grown into a healthy and vital nation. Opening the closed book of China can only benefit the citizens and cultures of both the United States and the People's Republic; and the way it looks, America's backpackers may be among the first to benefit.

Much of the world's commercial goosedown originates in the People's Republic of China. Until recently, due to political complications, this down had to be brokered the long way around the world, via Western Europe, passing through many and varied hands on its way to the ultimate consumer. Accordingly, inflated prices and objectionable dilution have been the rule in the American down market for some years. We sincerely hope that improving relations

between our two countries will help alleviate this problem in the future.

**GOOSE DOWN** Goose down remains the most efficient insulating material known to man. It represents nature's best effort in designing thermal protection for nature's airborne life. The efficiency of goose down is a product of its incredible structural complexity, with space-filling, air-deadening fibers which interlock with one another in a dense matrix. The larger and healthier the down cluster, the greater the number of barbs and barbules, and the higher the insulating efficiency. Additionally, mature goose down develops microscopic nodes on the tiniest fibers which contribute to the "interlock-ability" of the down. These are fewer or nonexistent in duck down clusters.

The two down clusters pictured on the opposite page are representative of mature goose down and mature duck down. The greater size and complexity of the goose down

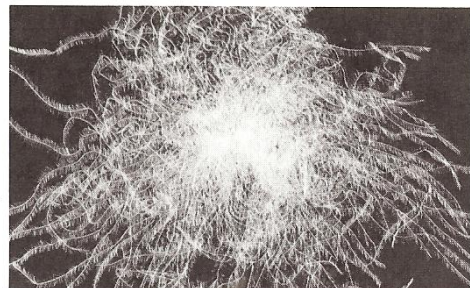


中華人民共和國  
廣東仁和公社社  
員歡迎新朋友

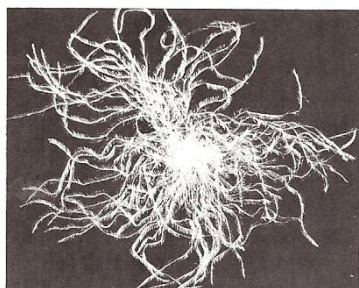


cluster is obvious; and, in addition to better thermal retention, we can extrapolate longer product life and durability, since the thicker, more mature barbules do not break as easily as do the lighter barbules of the duckdown cluster.

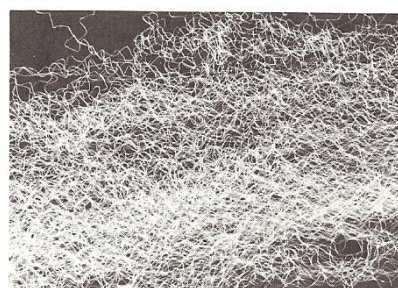
Goose down clusters vary in size; some are as small as the duck down cluster pictured. Commercially available goose down is a mixture of different sized stocks, the proportions of which are controlled by the down merchant (along with the broken fiber and feather content). The best down contains a higher percentage of larger clusters, which in general add to the loft of the down. Loft, however, can be a misleading statistic in evaluating down, as high loft can be created by using a higher percentage feather content with a lower grade down stock, at the discretion of the merchant or manufacturer. Other dilution techniques include the addition of "couchet" down, which has been previously



*mature goose down cluster*



*mature duck down cluster*



*synthetic fill*

used and reclaimed; and the addition of curling fibers stripped from larger quills. The quality of the down you buy in a backpacking product is very important in determining product life; and about all you have to go on is the reputation of the manufacturer.

Our increasing sophistication in microscopic down analysis has had the effect of keeping the suppliers honest—and keeping our quality level consistently high. We have eliminated duck down from our product line, simply because goose down makes for a more efficient, longer lived product.

The aesthetics of down—its organic softness and lightness, its instant warmth and excellent breatheability—are often slighted in these days of heavy synthetic fiber promotions by the giant chemicals firms. It would seem that you can expect to sleep in a wet sleeping bag every time out! The synthetics are excellent in many applications, and superior to down in a few—but good ol' goose down remains the lightest and finest insulator.

**SYNTHETICS** The man-made insulators, Celanese Fortrel Polarguard® polyester, and DuPont Dacron Fiberfill II®, offer certain advantages over down in humid and wet-cold conditions. The photograph here allows a comparison of Polarguard with down, as all shots have the same scale. The industrially produced insulator is less complex, less efficient in inhibiting the movement of air, and heavier; but the batted fiber, unlike free flowing down, will provide some insulation beneath the sleeper, as it is not as compressible.

The salient performance characteristic of polyester fibers is their resistance to water absorption. Both Polarguard and Fiberfill II absorb less than 5% water by weight. They do not absorb water, but like a sponge, they can trap it. Even so, polyester batting materials do not lose their loft when wet; this means they will still function to keep you warm.

The distinctions between these two synthetics are not earth-shaking in performance terms. The essential difference is the continuous filament construction of Polarguard, compared to the discontinuous nature of Fiberfill II. Fiberfill II is a "short staple" fiber, each filament being only 3.8-5.1 cm (1.5-2") long, while Polarguard's continuous filaments could each be literally kilometers long if the batts were not cut for fabrication. We feel that Fiberfill II gives greater initial bulk and a softer, more down-like feel than Polarguard, and that Polarguard in a double offset quilted construction gives a slightly more durable construction because each line of stitching locks the fibers permanently in place. (Properly constructed Fiberfill II designs are not subject to problems with shifting fill, and in products such as the Puma, insulation thickness may actually be increased after multiple washings.)

**CONTAINING THE INSULATORS** We use two different fabrics to enclose our insulating materials—1.9 ounce ripstop nylon, and 2.5 ounce nylon taffeta. Ripstop is distinguished by the extra strength threads woven at regular intervals, forming a grid pattern. An essential quality criterion for ripstop is the thread count—a higher thread count is more downproof and durable. We use only 112 x 90 ripstop in down and synthetic filled products, while many manufacturers use a lower count fabric for synthetics. We feel the lower count fabric is less durable, and it will not hold a seam as well; also, it often lacks the ZePel® and KenDown® finishes which add density and water repellency to the fabric. Check this when you buy a synthetic fill product.

Taffeta is used in the Serow lining and the Puma parka. It is a very high thread count fabric (90 x 150), with a slightly stiffer feel and heavier weight than the ripstop.

Baffles are constructed with a high strength, limited stretch knit material; it allows no migration of down between compartments. A marquisette netting is slightly lighter and is used in the ultimate efficiency North Face bag, where the 7.6 cm (3") offset tube construction provides a very high shell strength. Please see the introduction to the Bag section for a discussion of baffle construction techniques.

**CLEANING PROCEDURES** We have found that the best way to clean down products is to find a dry cleaner experienced with down, one who will not use perk or other strong solvents. Hand washing is a long process, best suited to clothing. Synthetic products must never be dry cleaned, as the process degrades the insulating material; hand or machine washing (front loading only!) in cold water, will work quite well. Detailed cleaning instructions are available from your dealer, or directly from North Face.



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## B • A • G • S / Down

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### UNIMOG

The generous dimensions and excellent loft of the Unimogs make them especially attractive four season sleepers for those who a) like lots of room, and b) spend a lot of time with two bags zipped together. Couples prefer the Unimog over double bags and compatibly zipped mummy bags, because the zippers fall on the sides, so both of you can get exactly the ventilation you need; because the bags function equally well as single bags or as comforters; and because each of you can have a bag matching your own size (regular and large sizes will zip together, with a 15.2 cm (6") mini-hood created by putting the large on the bottom). The width of the double bag created is 162.6 cm (64"), and the drawstrings will still operate efficiently; they fall on the sides, not in the middle.

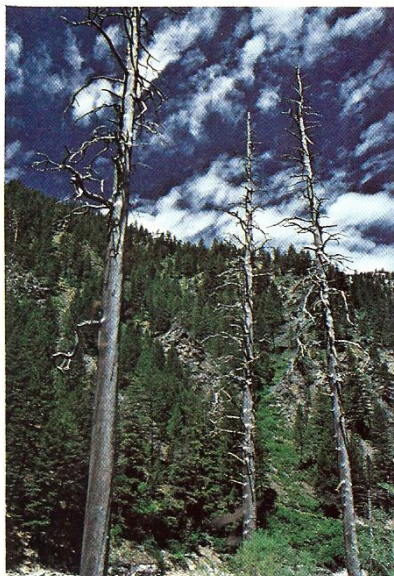
The 17.8-19.1 cm (7-7.5") of loft created by the prime goose down fill is sufficient insulation for most people to zero degrees, and the excellent ventilation afforded by the long zipper—which extends all the way across the foot section—makes the 'mog a comfortable summer bag as well.

Colors: Navy blue, chianti

Regular, to 182.9 cm (6')	1840 (4 lbs 1 oz)	\$ 115.00
Large, to 198.1 cm (6'6")	1953 (4 lbs 5 oz)	\$ 122.50







## CHAMOIS

More and more people are extending their outdoor activities to include the wilderness winter, an experience of crystalline beauty and, occasionally, storming minus temperatures. The Chamois is designed to fulfill the needs of those who want a single bag light enough for summer use, yet warm enough for winter camping. Such a bag must be efficiently designed, making the best use of materials, in order to function in these parameters.

The Chamois employs 964 grams (34 ounces) of prime goose down fill (large size), in the North Face slant box baffle construction; the width of the bag at the widest point is 78.7 cm (31"), narrower than the Ibex, but wider than the Superlight. The flared-at-the-elbows shaping of North Face mummy bags affords higher efficiency than straight-sided designs, and the generously sized hood is important in conserving warmth at low temperatures. The Chamois is a successful compromise, a genuine four-season sleeping bag.

Colors: Navy blue, bright green

Regular, to 182.9 cm (6')	1701 g (3 lbs 12 oz)	\$ 107.50
Large, to 198.1 cm (6'6")	1840 g (4 lbs 1 oz)	\$ 115.00











"If there is magic on this earth,  
it is contained in water."

Loren Eiseley

Quotation from the *Immense Journey*,  
Random House Vintage Books, 1959.

## IBEX

The Ibex is the essential winter bag, one of our original designs for winter mountaineering and snow camping. It develops 20.3-21.6 cm of loft (8-8.5") with 1162 grams (41 oz. size large) of prime goose down fill. Down quality, an important factor in all down designs, becomes extremely critical in low temperature applications. The advantages of highest grade goose down—its greater complexity and density, and the interlock-ability of its node-studded barbules—contribute to dependable loft and insulation when adverse conditions are a reality.

The baffles of the Ibex are spaced at 15.2 cm (6") intervals, and (as in all of our bags), offset by 7.6 cm (3"). With the positive seal of the down compartment provided by our exclusive sewing method, centrifugal down shift is impossible; and the Ibex features a densely filled, high loft foot section for excellent protection of your vulnerable extremities.

Colors: Navy blue, brown

Regular, to 182.9 cm (6')	1899 g (4 lbs 3 oz)	\$ 117.50
Large, to 198.1 cm (6'6")	2041 g (4 lbs 8 oz)	\$ 125.00

## NORTH FACE

An extraordinary bag rated to minus 30°, the North Face is truly the oven of sleeping bags. In the consistent dry cold of Arctic conditions, the North Face provides a margin of thermal insurance appreciated by the dogsledders, bush pilots, guides and explorers who need it. The North Face is our only bag with a 7.6 cm (3") baffle spacing and double draft flaps, both features contributing to create an unbroken, consistent thickness of insulation around you. The marquisette baffling material—also found only in this bag—is lighter than our standard knit, and in this construction offers the best balance of strength and weight.

The down fill weights are 1415 grams (3 pounds 2 oz) for the regular and 1500 grams (3 pounds 5 oz) for the large.

Color: Acapulco Gold

Regular, to 182.9 cm (6')	2381 g (5 lbs 4 oz)	\$ 155.00
Large, to 198.1 cm (6'6")	2495 g (5 lbs 8 oz)	\$ 165.00

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B • A • G • S / Down

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## BIGFOOT

The Bigfoot incorporates the most efficient construction method yet developed for synthetic insulation sleeping bags, with overlapping batts of DuPont Fiberfill II sewn completely around the circumference of the bag. This "shingled" construction creates excellent loft at 17.8-19.1 cm (7-7.5") with no cold spots, at the lightest possible weight.

The Bigfoot is rated to 0°, a technically superior bag for the demanding four season mountaineer. The Bigfoot provides dependable loft under the most obnoxious wet-cold conditions; its efficient modified mummy shape is comfortably roomy for most people, and the total weight is 2265 grams (5 lbs) for the regular size. Durability follows from painstaking detail in construction and reinforcement.

Fiberfill II's cushiony resilience is an added comfort bonus for the backpacker or ski traveler. It helps make the Bigfoot the world's best downless bag design.

Colors: Royal blue, tan

Regular, to 183 cm (6')	2265 g (5 lbs.)	\$ 75.00
Large, to 198 cm (6'6")	2435 g (5 lbs. 6 oz)	\$ 77.50





## ELEPHANT'S FOOT

A climber's footsack, cut very narrow for efficiency, with Fiberfill II insulation—the North Face Pied d'Elefant works well for grade V and VI when cold or wet weather may be encountered. Zipperless, it develops 15.2 cm (6") of loft; there is a drawcord in the "hood" which closes down above your waist and underneath your parka. The weight is 1076 grams (2 lbs 6 oz); overall length is 162.6 cm (64").

Colors: Royal blue, tan

1076 g (2 lbs 6 oz)

\$ 45.00

## LITTLEFOOT

The Littlefoot is designed to provide roomy, comfortable 3-season warmth for people up to about 152 cm (5') tall. It is rated to 20°, and made with the same bombproof overlapping batts construction found in the Bigfoot, which Backpacker Magazine called "the most efficient we've seen." A 116.8 cm (46") #7 YKK coil zipper is used; it has non-locking sliders for safety, and a velcro closure at the top guards against its coming open by itself. The fabric is flame retardant ripstop nylon; the insulation is DuPont Fiberfill II.

The Littlefoot is light, comfortable, and efficient, an excellent small people sleeping bag.

Colors: Royal blue, tan

One length, 175.3 cm (5'9")

1274 g (2 lbs 13 oz)

\$ 49.50





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## B • A • G • S / Synthetic

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### YETI

The Yeti is a roomy, semi-rectangular Fiberfill II sleeping bag, weighing in at 2353 grams (5 lbs 3 oz) for the regular size. Designed for the greatest comfort in three season backpacking, with the cushiony wet weather advantages of synthetic fill, the Yeti is rated to 20°. The Yeti is versatile; it adapts well to *all* moderate-weather outdoor uses. The strength and durability created by our double overlapping batts construction method is phenomenal; the Yeti will stand up to an incredible amount of abuse, and return for more.

The #7 continuous coil, double slider zipper on this bag enables it to mate with the Chrysalis, to create a moderate weather double with goose down on top and Fiberfill II below. We do not manufacture bags combining the two types of fill because of the inherent cleaning problem—what's good for the goose down may degrade the synthetic, and vice versa. See page 7 for cleaning instructions.

The Yeti—quality unconditionally guaranteed, in a light, roomy synthetic bag—only the competition can call it abominable.

Colors: Royal blue, tan

Regular, to 183 cm (6')	2353 g (5 lbs 3 oz)	\$ 77.50
Large, to 198 cm (6'6")	2438 g (5 lbs 6 oz)	\$ 79.50



Note: No. 7 zipper available February 1976



## CAT'S MEOW

Omni-functional, from the 'glades to the Olympics to Lake of the Woods, the Cat's Meow is a strong, serviceable bag for canoeing, backpacking, kayaking, climbing, hitching, and trekking. The Meow is a symmetrical modified mummy shape, tapered for efficiency yet wide enough for comfort, with a temperature rating to 20°, and a total weight of 1642 grams (3 lbs 10 oz) for the regular size. It is differentially cut, and shares the long list of standard North Face comfort features (see pages 2 and 3), including a thick, insulated offset draft flap, and the roomy boxed foot section.

The Cat's Meow incorporates a number of innovative (patents pending) construction techniques. The method is a double offset quilted system, utilizing 8 ounce weight PolarGuard® batting and durable, high thread count ripstop nylon for the shell. The patentable aspects of our own approach to the double offset quilted construction are centered around greater precision in the early stages of construction; they result in more efficient production and lower prices to the customer than would be possible otherwise.

The Cat's Meow is a vagabond's delight, the best recreational synthetic sleeping bag to date.

Color: Royal blue

Regular, to 177.8 cm (5' 10")	1642 g (3 lbs 10 oz)	\$ 57.50
Large, to 192.2 cm (6' 4")	1868 g (4 lbs 2 oz)	\$ 59.50





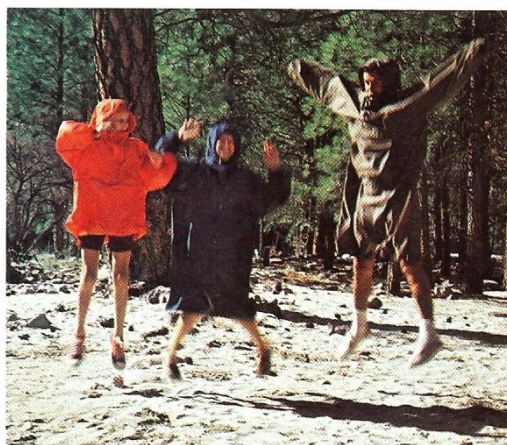
# P·A·R·K·A·S

One of the nicest features of functionally designed outdoor clothing is how good near-weightless warmth feels. The freedom of movement built into our clothing designs, along with their light weight, places them among the most comfortable warmth garments ever known.

Our newest goosedown parka—page 20—weighs only 425 g (15 oz), our lightest ever; it's the Whippersnapper, a kid's parka in three sizes, with the warmth and features of the Sierra Parka. Another new product for this year is a simply functional vest built with Celanese Fortrel Polarguard® polyester fill, on page 19.

New colors appear for the Sierra Parka and Down Vest this year. We have resisted adding colors, our feeling being that functional clothing should not be sold as "fashion" goods; but strong customer demand for other colors has surfaced. We can only pledge that the functional efficiency of our designs will never be impaired by considerations of change for the sake of change.

**Design Imperatives** Extensive research indicates that your comfort in the mountains depends on your ability to maintain your body at an optimum temperature level, by varying the amount of insulation and ventilation you use.



This sounds easy, but the variability of your body's heat production, between resting and skiing, is very high—at rest, you give off approximately 80 kcal of heat per hour, and in hard work, up to 600—while the optimum temperature range for comfort is quite small, a range of perhaps 7 to 10 degrees around your normal skin temperature.

Well designed adjustments for ventilation control can extend the comfort range of a down parka in both directions, warmer and colder; and the difference between a good backpacking parka and the best backpacking parka is not complex or subtle—the best one keeps you comfortable over a wider temperature range.

## Standard Features

Two way separating zippers on all parkas except the Whippersnapper. These open from the bottom as well as the top, for precise control and instant adjustment.

Snap closed flaps covering the zipper, to protect you from cold air penetration; they work well for ventilation adjustment or when the zipper is not engaged.

Drawstring closures at the hip or waist line serve to close off the torso from drafts of cold air.

Cuff closures of velcro or snaps are superior to knit cuffs because the latter allow no ventilation adjustment.

The collars on all insulating garments are large and overstuffed, and close snugly. This is very important because of the amount of heat radiated by your head and neck, generally amounting to 60% of your body's heat production.

Two way pockets design on all clothing except the Cagoule and vests. These pockets give you a side-opening handwarmer pocket, with a flap-closed cargo pocket superimposed over it.

Hoods that close with velcro and/or a drawstring afford additional thermal protection; they are sold separately.

Each of our clothing designs has unique features of its own as well; the Rain Parka employs a vapor venting system across your chest and back; the North Face Parka has double draft flaps, and all closures operate with non-freezing velcro tabs; the Cagoule will adjust to two lengths to match the conditions you meet; and so on.

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SIZES	XS	S	M	L	XL
MEN'S	32	34-36	38-40	42-44	46-48
WOMEN'S	8-10	10-12	12-14	14-16	16-18



*Navy Blue*



*Acapulco Gold*



*Chianti*



*Red*



*Bright Green*



*Brown*



## SIERRA PARKA

The Sierra Parka represents the state of the art in down parkas, that design which best combines warmth, light weight, ventilation and comfort features, and fit. We invite side-by-side comparisons with competitive parkas, as these only sell the Sierra Parka more effectively. The Sierra is the best selling design in America, in a market noted for its sophistication and awareness of quality.

This popularity is not an accident or a marketing stratagem. The superior loft of the Sierra, its fine detail in sewing and finishing, and the recommendations of other backpackers all play a part. The features of the Sierra include the 10.2 cm (4") high, overstuffed, snap closed collar, the two way coil zipper with insulated draft flap, the hip drawstring, double handwarmer/cargo pockets, and cuffs closed with elastic and snaps. The fabric is 1.9 ounce ripstop nylon, in five colors, with ZePel and KenDown finishes for water repellency, downproofness, and durability.

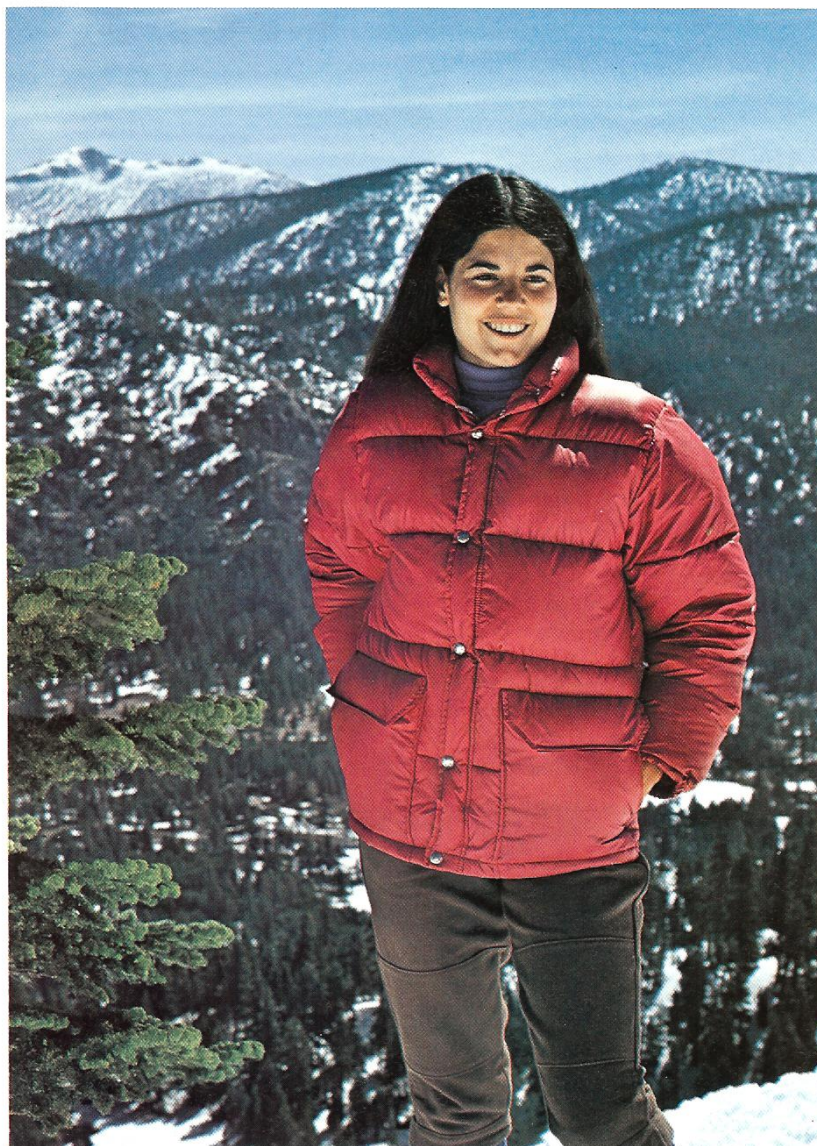
The excellent fit most people find in the Sierra Parka is a product of several years of design evolution. We wanted a parka that would not restrict movement, like many down sweaters do; accordingly, the Sierra has a set in sleeve and a roomy cut about the shoulders. Other competitive parkas may be too roomy at the hips, hanging well out from your body; this is inefficient. The Sierra is cut to eliminate this problem, and incorporates a hip drawcord for precise adjustment. The length is a third aspect of the design—neither too short nor too long, the Sierra will not ride up on your hips, nor will it interfere with leg movement.

A corollary of functional design is wide range versatility. If you need a single warmth garment for year round activity, from skiing to backpacking to day in, day out urban truckin'—this is it.

Colors: Navy blue, bright green, chianti, red, brown

XS, S, M, L, XL

Av. weight: 709 g (25 oz)      \$ 53.50



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CLO Clothing technologists have developed a system for measuring the heat retention of insulating parkas and sleeping bags. The CLO unit rating gives an ascending value to the heat retention efficiency of the item tested.

The CLO unit is defined as the amount of insulation necessary to maintain comfort and a mean skin temperature of 92° F. in a room at 70° F. with air movement not over 10 feet per minute, humidity not over 50%, with a metabolism of 50 calories per square meter per hour. (From *Physiology of Heat Regulation and the Science of Clothing*, Newburgh Ed.; Hafner, 1968.)

If all insulating products were rated by their CLO value, determining the best and worst models would be a simple matter of comparing two numbers. Unfortunately, however, the equipment and technology needed to measure CLO values is very rare and expensive—access to it is extremely limited. Our research in the technology of heat retention would be furthered if we could easily obtain CLO ratings; thus, we hope eventually to publish these scientifically derived data. Providing, of course, we can obtain them. We're working on it.

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P • A • R • K • A • S

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## RAIN PARKA

The North Face Rain Parka is an innovative approach to rain protection for active people. The limitations of waterproof coated garments can be summed up in one word—condensation. The moisture given off by your body can drench you quite quickly if you have to hike some distance in a closed waterproof design. The Rain Parka, to address this problem, incorporates a unique vapor venting system that functions with a bellows action as you move. There is a vent, covered by a generous 11.4 cm (4.5") overlapping flap, across your back; and two similar vents above the front pockets. The liner fabric of a 1.8 oz. Rochelle knit maintains some spacing between the coated outer fabric and the clothing you wear underneath; the open knit pattern allows free circulation of air beneath the outer.

The new 50-50 nylon-acrylic fabric is proof against drenching rain. We recommend the use of a wool shirt beneath the Rain Parka; this combination will keep wet country outdoorsmen warm and dry.

The hood is detachable; the sleeves close down with gusseted velcro closures; there is an inside pocket in addition to the six outer pockets; and the seams are sealed at the factory during the construction process. The Rain Parka—at home in the wilds or in the city, a functional piece of clothing.

Color: tan

S, M, L, XL

Av. weight: 794 g (28 oz) \$ 50.00

## CAGOULE

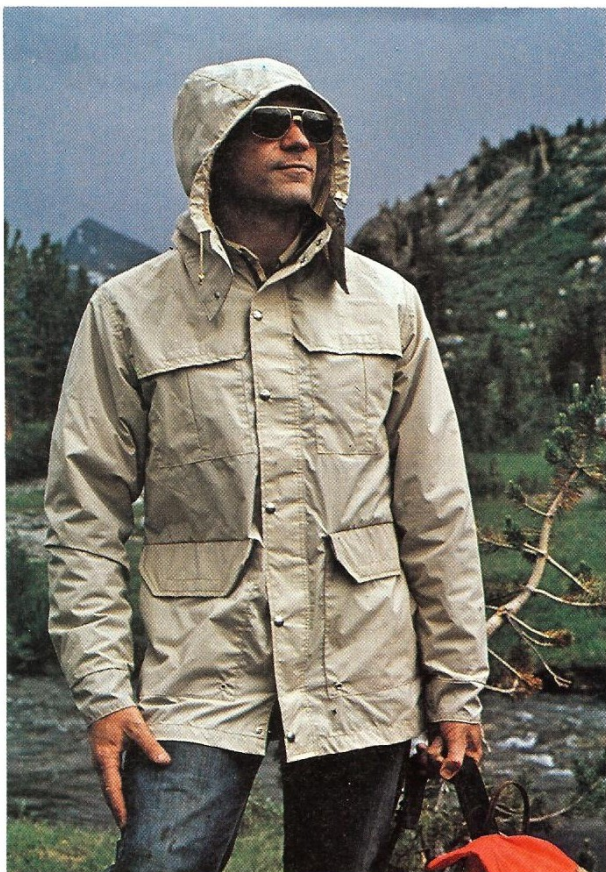
The Cagoule is essentially a body-tent for climbers and backpackers

who need excellent protection in stormy mountain weather—a waterproof, shin-length overgarment weighing only 510 grams (18 oz). The fabric is 2.2 oz. waterproof K-Koted® nylon, double thickness in the hood, shoulders, and sleeves. The second thickness is completely secured inside; and four snaps allow you to raise the hem to mid-thigh for comfortable trail walking. There is a drawstring in the bottom edge for bivouacing. You can control ventilation by adjusting the covered zipper at the neck, and with the hood drawstring. There is a huge kangaroo pocket in the front with a flap-covered coil zipper closure; we supply a 10.2 cm (4") x 20.3 cm (8") stuffsack.

Colors: Navy blue, taupe

Regular, Large

Av. weight: 510 g (18 oz) \$ 36.50





**SYLVESTER**

This is a utilitarian vest constructed with Celanese Fortrel PolarGuard®. It develops fine, cushiony loft throughout, from the 8.9 cm (3.5") high stand up collar to the handwarming slash pockets at the bottom. Two colors are available—the red and brown chevron shown here, and a solid color version in royal blue.

The 8.0 ounce/yard PolarGuard batting is quilted between two layers of ripstop nylon, very stable and not susceptible to shifting. The fill is non-allergenic, for those who may not be able to wear down. PolarGuard resists moisture penetration of the individual fibers; this simplifies the cleaning process, since the Vest will dry faster than a down model. There is a 5.1 cm (2") wide draft flap behind

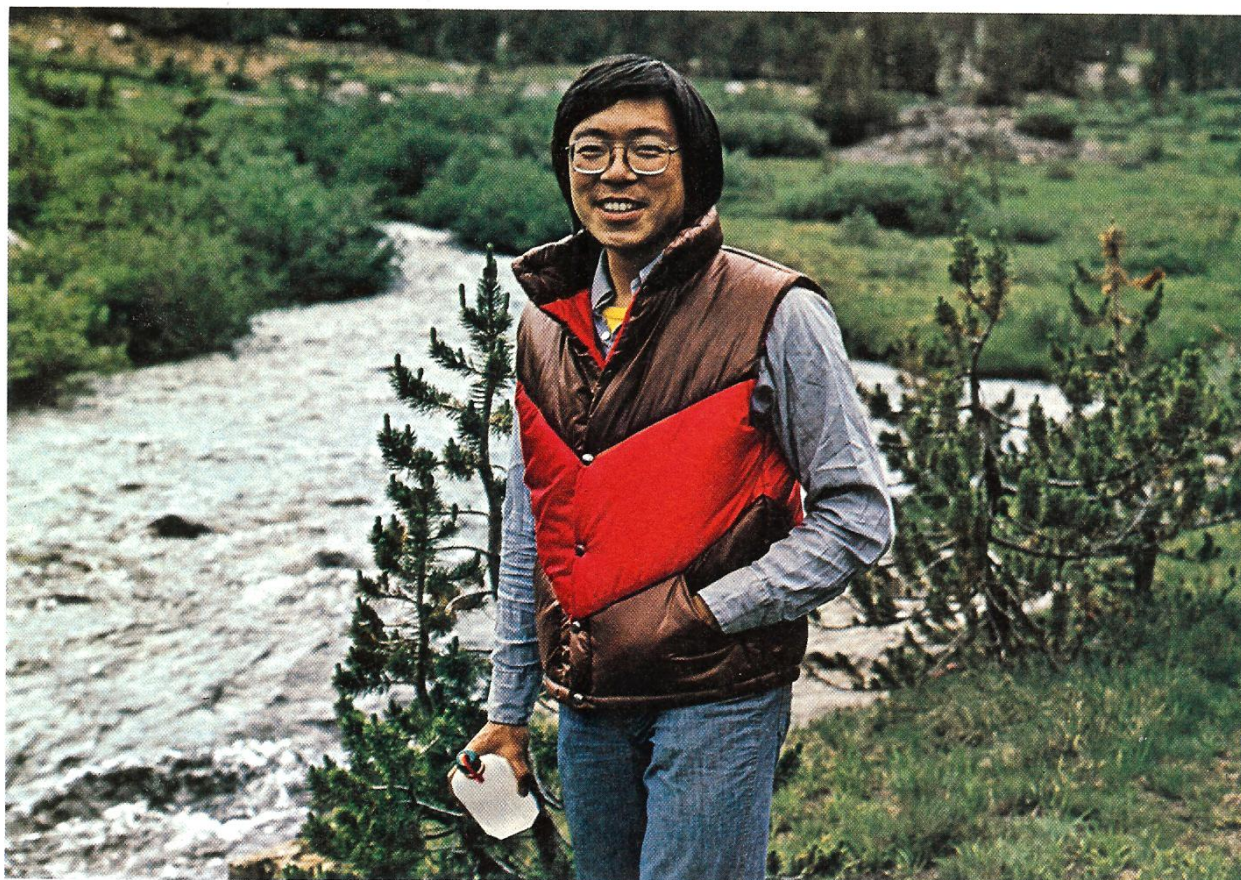
the snap-closed front, for a positive air seal at that vulnerable spot; the North Face snaps feature the strongest, most trouble-free design available, and will not fail under the worst abuse. Unlike almost all other types, they do not weaken the fabric in which they are set.

Sylvester is a fantastic skiing vest, with unrestricted freedom of movement and dependable warmth; it will also be popular in those areas where rain and dampness make down less suitable than the synthetic. It weighs only 454 grams, some 85 g more than our down vest (medium size). Sylvester will deliver years of service; it is built to be the best.

Colors: Red and brown, royal blue

XS, S, M, L, XL

Av. weight: 454 g (16 oz)      \$ 25.00



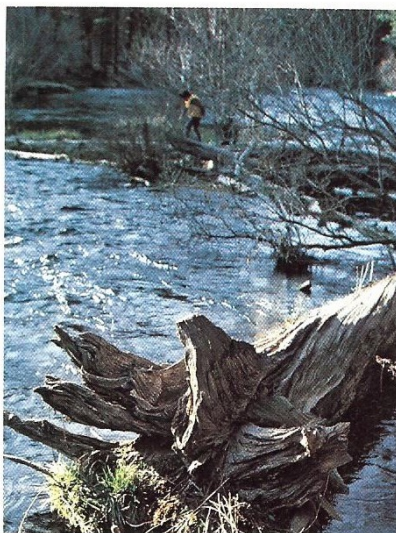


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P•A•R•K•A•S

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**WHIPPERSNAPPER**



Merry Christmas, Whipper-snappers! Our contribution to Santa's stash is essentially a scaled-down Sierra Parka, made from tough, abrasion resistant, ZePel treated 1.9 ounce ripstop nylon, sewn with strong double needle seams at the sides and up the front, and filled with prime goose down. The handwarmer pockets, just like the Sierra Parka's, are arrowtack reinforced, with cargo pockets on top. The cuffs, collar, and zipper flap close with strong snaps.

Three sizes are loosely intended to fit hobbits, elves and trolls from five to six (small), seven to eight (medium), and nine to ten (large). Warm enough for winter, and light enough to carry, the Whipper-snapper comes only in royal blue.

Color: Royal blue

S, M, L

Av. weight: 425 g (15 oz)      \$ 36.50





## MOUNTAIN PARKA

This is a wind parka, comfortable and efficient in any and all wind conditions—like cycling, skiing, mountaineering, hiking, canoeing, and living in Chicago. It's cut slightly larger than a Sierra Parka of the same size, so the two may be worn in tandem without binding or restricting freedom of movement. The dense, 4 oz. 60-40 nylon-cotton fabric is wind tight, and adds a measure of heat retention as well. It's breathable, and comfortable for climbing and other high exertion sports. The standard ventilation features of our clothing are of course represented here—the double slider coil zipper, covered with a snap over flap, waist drawstring, elastic and snaps at the cuffs; a hood with a drawstring closure is necessary for proper protection from convective heat loss.

The Mountain Parka is lined with 2.5 oz. nylon taffeta, a high thread count fabric that is light, super strong, and durable. There is an inner pocket in the lining, and a vertically zippered pocket over your heart, and the standard double pockets design rounds out the convenience constellation. A Scotchgard® treatment affords short term water repellency, which may be renewed every few years via commercially available silicone sprays.

Colors: Navy blue, tan

XS, S, M, L, XL

Av. weight: 709 g (25 oz) \$49.00

## DOWN VEST

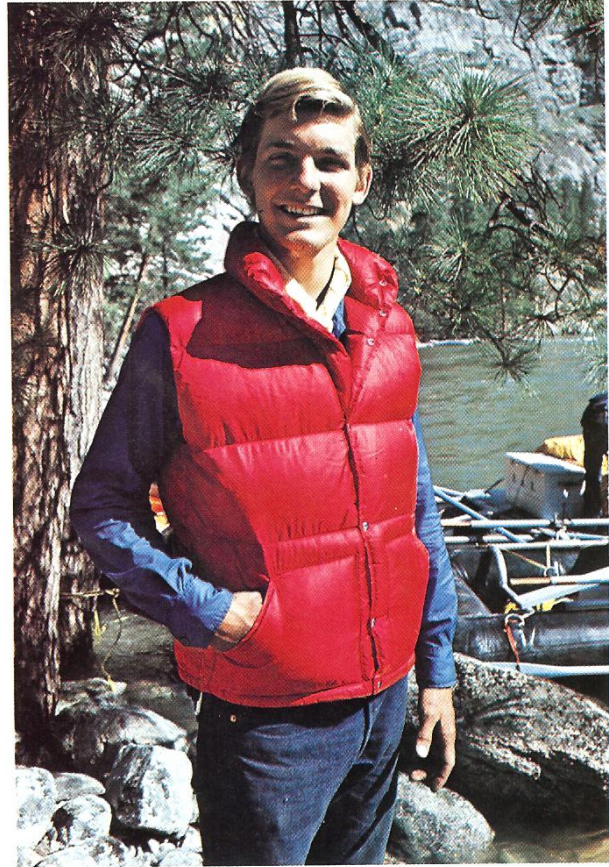
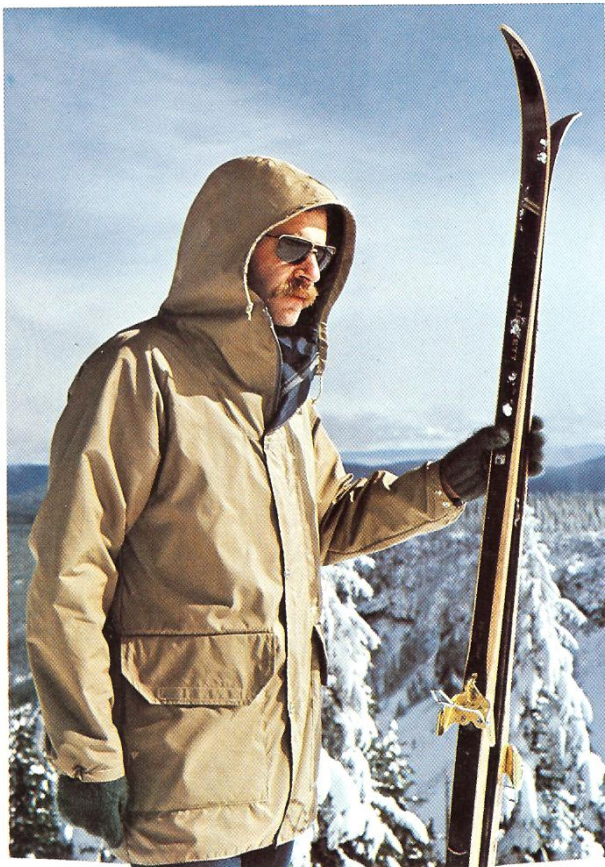
Why is this man smiling? Could it be that he's warm and toasty in that cloud-light North Face vest? Could be! A down vest is something to smile

about when it's cold out; for active people it provides freedom of movement with the warmth of a thick layer of prime goose down. Our vest is distinguished by its excellent fill, by its high, comfortably overstuffed down collar, by its draft-protected front closure, and by its fine detailing and finishing. The medium size weighs only 369 grams (13 oz); the down fill is 156 grams (5.5 oz). Cut hip length, and slightly tighter than our other parka designs, the vest has two elastic bands sewn into the sides at the bottom; these assure a snug, draft-sealed fit at the hip. The vest is super for skiing, bicycling, backpacking and mountaineering.

Colors: Navy blue, red, bright green, chianti, Acapulco gold

XS, S, M, L, XL

Av. weight: 369 g (13 oz) \$ 29.50



(Overleaf) The great solar-driven water cycle, the continuously cycling, world-encompassing energy system that fosters all life—a fragile balance, weather-driving, snow making—interconnected, endless. Original art by George Stovall.

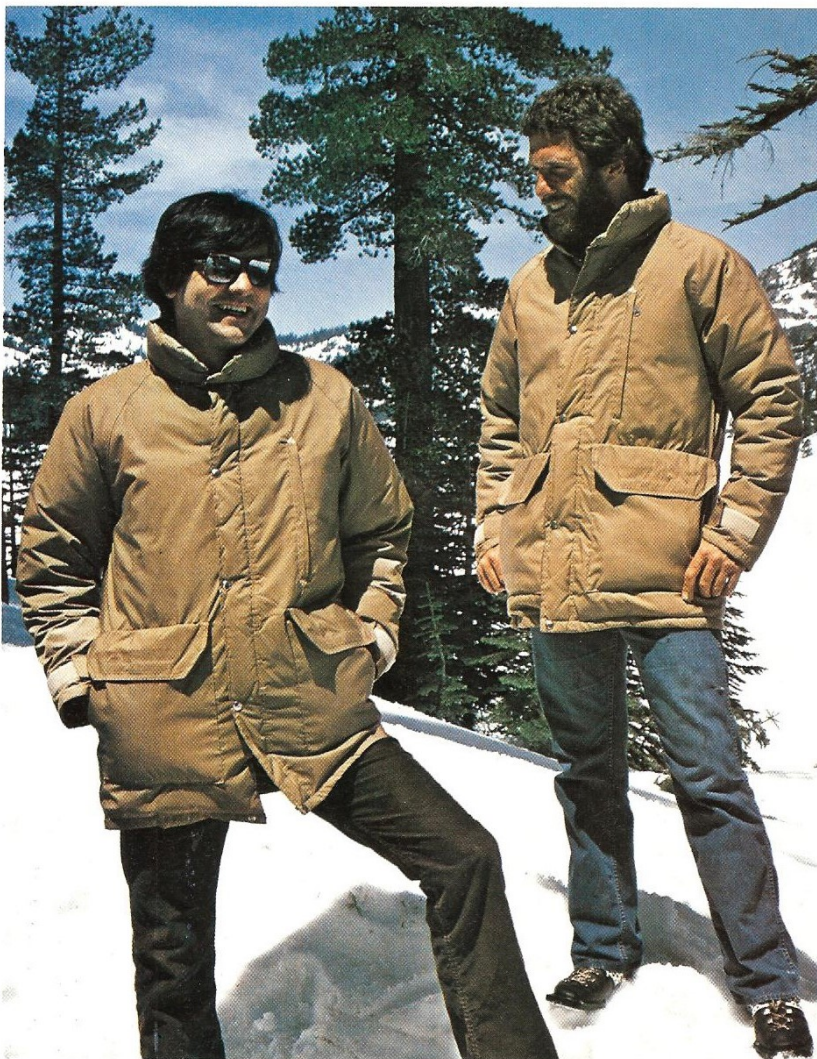












## SEROW

The Serow is a winter parka, too heavy for summer backpacking; it comes into its own when the temperature gets down around zero and below. The weight of prime goose down fill is comparable to that of the Sierra Parka, an average of 284 grams (10 oz); but the addition of the dense, wind-tight 60-40 cloth shell improves the heat retention considerably. The down is quilted between two layers of tough 2.5 oz nylon taffeta. The smooth



outer spills wind better than is possible with any sewn through design, and increases the amount of dead air space around you to a constant 3.8 cm + (1.5") of loft. Additionally, the density of the tightly woven 4 oz outer shell helps keep more of your body's heat inside.

The Serow features a 10.2 cm (4") high down filled collar and an insulated snap-over draft flap covering the zipper, with velcro closures at the wrist. The well insulated handwarmer pockets are covered with bellows pockets measuring 25.4 cm (10") x 26.7 cm (10.5"), velcro-closed. A vertically zippered pocket over your heart protects goggles, glacier creme, and other fragile items from harm, and there's yet another pocket on the inside. A waist drawstring shuts off cold drafts, and a snap-on hood is available—see page 28.

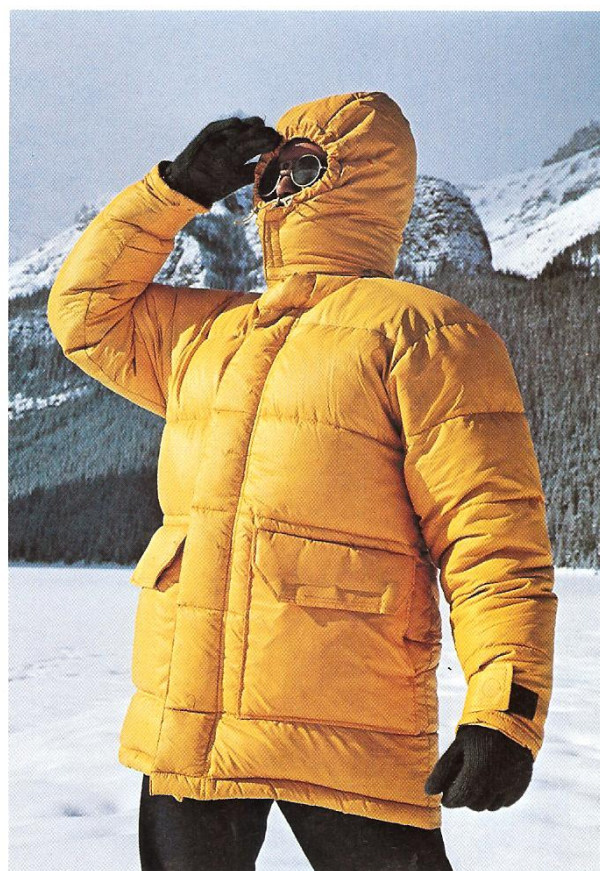
We've tested the Serow in conditions with chill factors to  $-50^{\circ}\text{F}$ , with excellent results. It creates more loft per unit of weight than any competitive design.

Colors: Navy blue, tan

XS, S, M, L, XL

Av. weight: 1162 g (41 oz) \$ 76.00





## PUMA

Much has been said in the media about synthetics as a lower cost alternative to down, mostly by the people who sell those synthetics. The primary *functional* advantage the synthetics have, though, is their resistance to water penetration of the fiber—which allows them to retain their loft even when wet. The Puma is accordingly constructed to take maximum advantage of the best characteristic of Fiberfill II®, resulting in a superior wet-climate insulating parka.

The Puma combines the efficient design, excellent fit, and ventilation features of the Sierra Parka with the strength and abrasion resistance of high thread count 2.5 oz. nylon taffeta and the cushiony insulation of Fiberfill II. Its warmth is comparable to many of the down parkas sold today; thus it makes an excellent skiing and winter camping parka. As David Beck

points out in *Ski Tours in California* (Wilderness Press), the worst conditions are not the coldest snow, but rather the wettest. And the wettest won't faze a Puma. . .

Colors: Navy blue, chianti

XS, S, M, L, XL

Av. weight: 978 g (34.5 oz) \$ 46.50

## NORTH FACE PARKA

We're tempted to re-name this the Alaska Parka, for its unequivocal success in the Arctic reaches of our largest and coldest state. The North Face has several unique heat-conserving features. A double offset quilted design, differentially cut, the North Face has more effective loft over the shoulders than any competitive design. Double draft flaps, one inside and one outside the zipper, maintain the constant 10.2 cm (4") of loft across your chest. Dogsled racers appreciate

that feature; in conjunction with the overstuffed, oversized, velcro closed collar, it lets you face into biting winds without icing up your adam's apple. Velcro closures are used for the draft flap, pockets, cuffs, and collar because they are non-conductive and resist freezing. The hood, available separately, snaps on below the collar; no snaps can touch your skin. The sleeves are double quilted as well, unlike many competitive models which are sewn through. The zipper is a # 10 Optilon coil, sleeping bag size, with double sliders; the finest, most trouble-free zipper available. The fabric is 1.9 oz. ripstop, with ZePel and Kendown finishes, and the 482 grams (17 oz) of prime goose down fill is of course the most efficient insulating substance known to man. Need we say more?

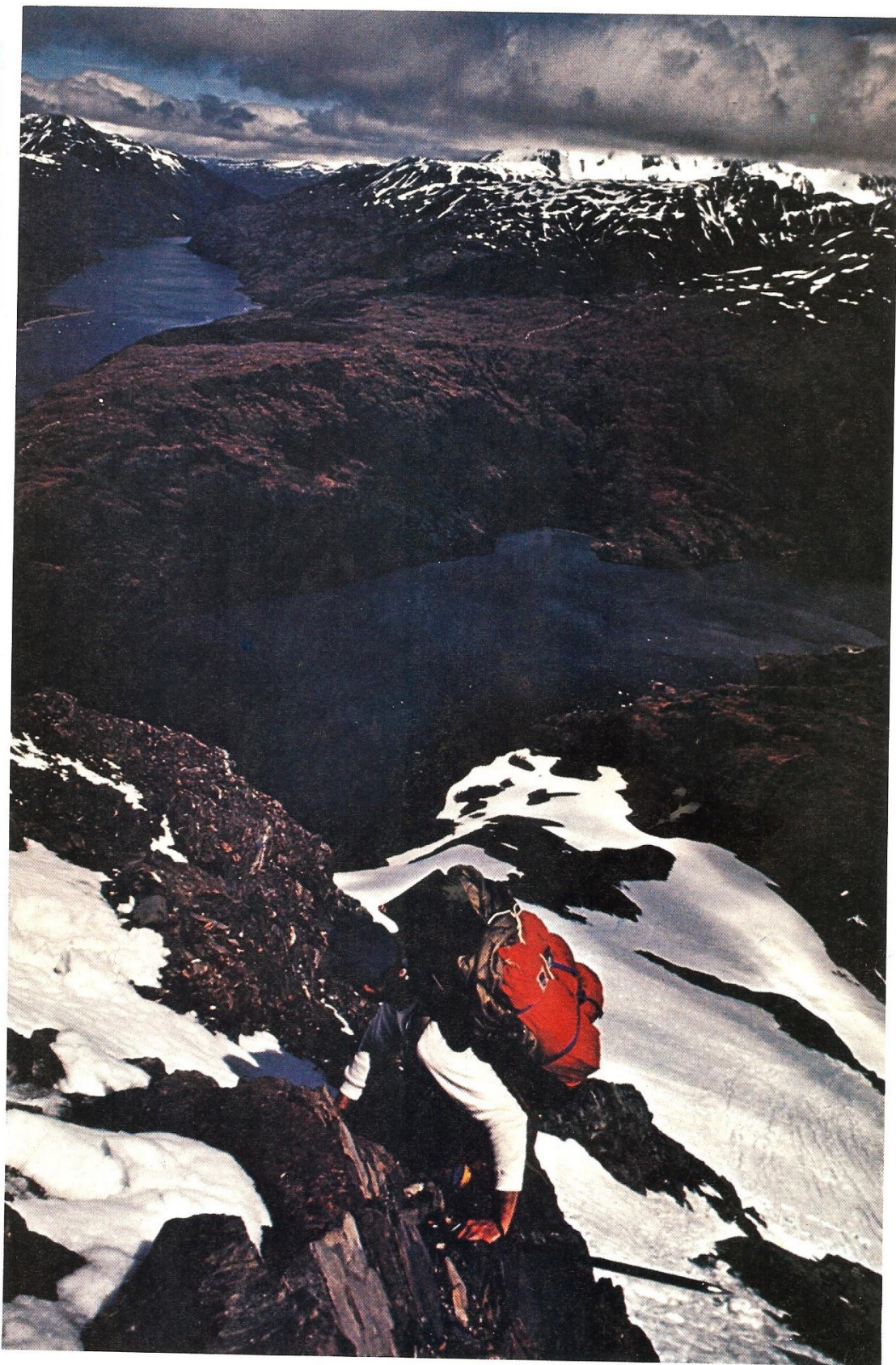
Colors: Acapulco Gold, Navy/Gold

S, M, L, XL

Av. weight: 1247 g (44 oz) \$ 90.00



# 1975 PATAGONIAN CANALS EXPEDITION





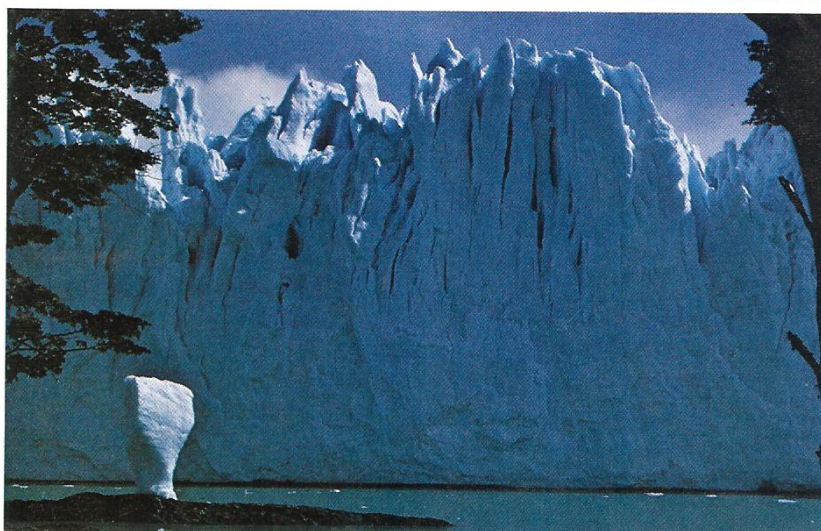
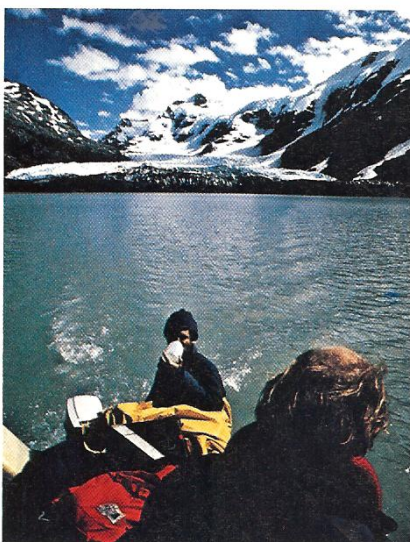
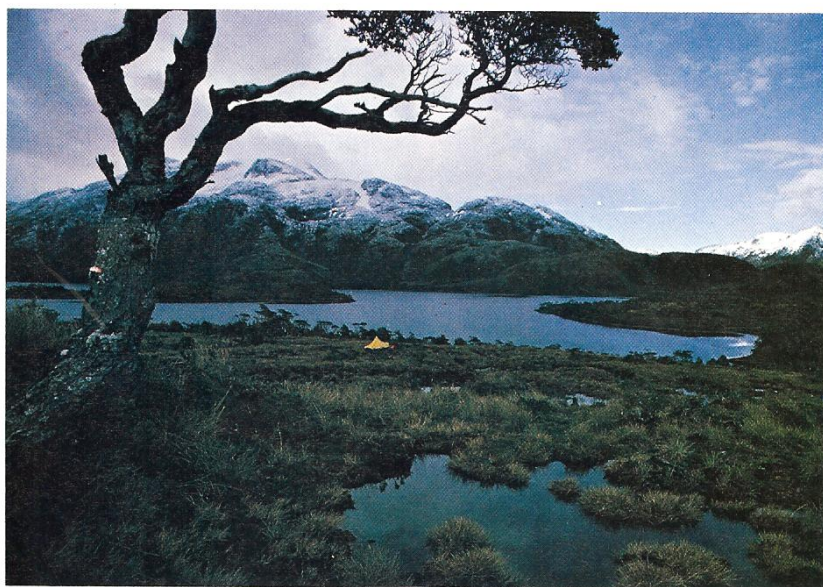
Two massive icecaps, thrusting glaciers into the storm-tossed sea . . . thousands of kilometers of fjords, inundating the tail of the Andes . . . the glaciated granite of Fitzroy, Cerro Torre, the Towers of Paine . . . this is Patagonia, the tip of the Americas, spectacularly rugged and largely unexplored, with an area as great as California, Oregon and Washington combined.

For Jack Miller, William Rodarmor, and Peter Bruchausen, the canals expedition was a heady taste of this wild and sublime land—Fat Martha took them through 583 kilometers of canals, with seven portages—taking time out for an intricate first ascent of the Gran Campo Nevado, with its 230 square kilometer icecap. Then, "Tchaikovsky could not have written a finer finale, as during the last days we sailed through a ballet of blackneck swans and dolphins which gracefully guided us into more known waters, and at last to the frontier port of Natales . . . We are relieved to find that a determined, self-reliant party can climb wherever they want in Fuegia.

That is, with the aid of gracious ladies like Fat Martha."\*

Jack Miller, quoted in the *American Alpine Journal*, June 1975

\*not to mention tents, bags and parkas from the North Face . . .



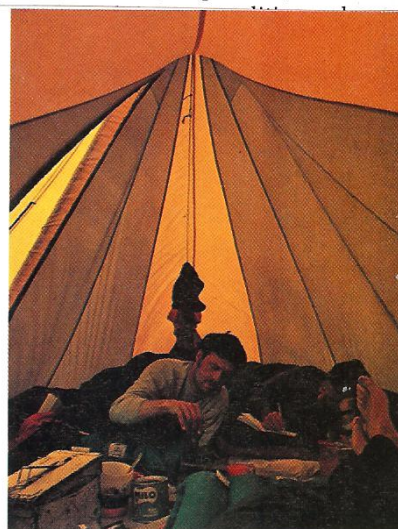
## DOWN BOOTIES

Cold feet? Forget it. Help is on the way . . . North Face booties contain an average of 28 grams (1 oz) of prime goose down each, with durable waterproof coated bottoms and breathable ripstop tops, insulated beneath with ensolite. Four sizes correspond roughly to shoe sizes as follows: XS, size 4-6; S, 6-8; M, 8-10; and L, 10-12. Snow campers, when nature calls you, survive that midnight call—in a pair of toasty warm North Face booties.

Colors: Light or dark combinations, as available \$ 15.00

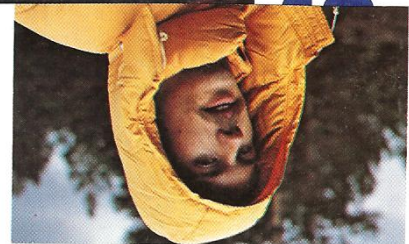
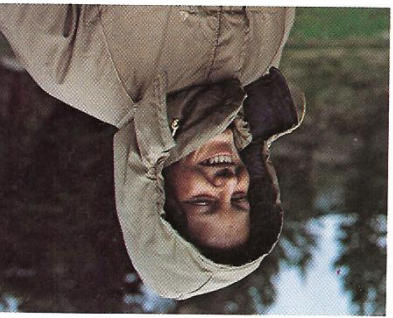
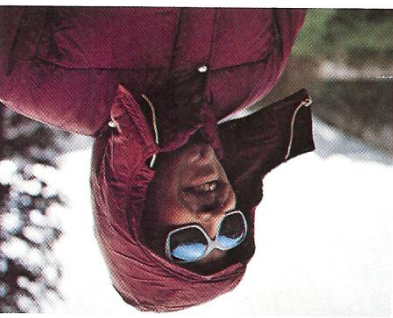
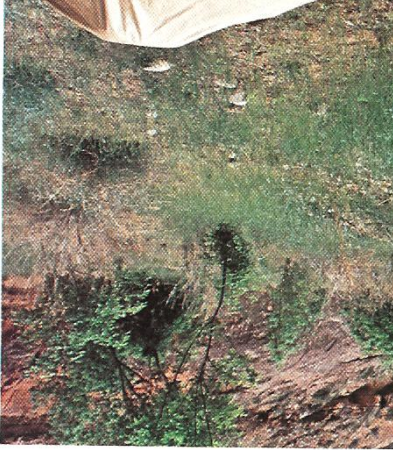
## ENSOLITE

Ensolite (not pictured) is essential





# DOWNMAN CAMPAL



## NECESSITIES

### SUPER BIVOUAC COVER

A multi-utility necessity for tentless travel, the Super Bivy gives you the waterproof protection of a ground-sheet, with a zippered, breathable taffeta top. When it's warm, you can sleep on top of your bag, and still be protected from mosquitos; when it's cold and windy, the smooth cover adds warmth by spilling the wind. The miscellaneous uses are endless, and limited only by your imagination. The Super Bivouac Cover is grommeted at six points for tie out lines, and comes with a 10.2 cm (4") x 20.3 cm (8") stuffsack. Sleep under the stars!

Colors: As available

453 g (16 oz) \$ 19.50

Puma Hood (lower rt) 133 g (4.7 oz) \$ 9.00

North Face Hood (lower left) 164 g (5.8 oz) \$ 12.50

Serow Hood (upper rt) 162 g (5.7 oz) \$ 12.00

Sierra Hood (upper left) 122 g (4.3 oz) \$ 10.00

A well insulated hood can greatly extend the comfort range of your parka, by conserving much of the warmth radiated by your head and neck. We make hoods for each of our insulating parkas in colors to match; they snap on below the collar, doubling the insulation in the neck area. They all adjust via drawstrings and velcro strips at the chin, and all are covered by a smooth, wind-shedding outer shell.

Note: We changed to a new type of snap about one and a half years ago. If your parka snaps don't say "The North Face," let us know when you order your hood, we will send the proper model.

### DOWN HOODS





## FOAM PADS

Ground insulation is an absolute necessity—and these cushiony insulators give you comfort plus, even on solid rock. They have a cotton top with a waterproof coated bottom; tie strings are sewn in, and the foam is easily removable for replacement when/if necessary. They roll to a

compact 12.7 cm (5") diameter; the width for both sizes is 51 cm. (20").

Colors: As available

Regular 91 cm (36")

481 g (17 oz)

\$ 8.00

Large 127 cm (50")

652 g (23 oz)

\$ 10.00



## DOWN BOOTIES

Cold feet? Forget it. Help is on the way . . . North Face booties contain an average of 28 grams (1 oz) of prime goose down each, with durable waterproof coated bottoms and breathable ripstop tops, insulated beneath with ensolite. Four sizes correspond roughly to shoe sizes as follows: XS, size 4-6; S, 6-8; M, 8-10; and L, 10-12. Snow campers, when nature calls you, survive that midnight call—in a pair of toasty warm North Face booties.

Colors: Light or dark combinations, as available \$ 15.00

## ENSOLITE

Ensolite (not pictured) is essential for expeditionary conditions where bulk and weight must be minimized. A 19 mm ( $\frac{3}{8}$ ") thickness provides sufficient insulation and reasonable comfort with the lightest weight. Type MH is best for durability. Both sizes are 51 cm (20") wide.

Regular 114 cm (45")

396 g (14 oz)

\$ 6.00

Large 152 cm (60")

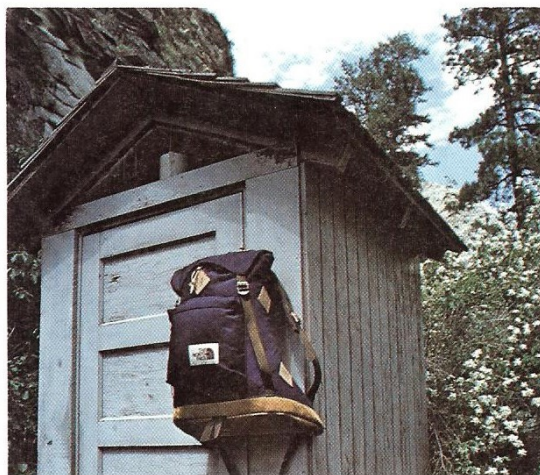
510 g (18 oz)

\$ 9.00

## NECESSITIES



# P·A·C·K·S



Convenience and versatility—the ability of your pack to work well in many different situations—are a function of clean, omni-adaptable design, uncluttered by add-on gimmicks. We strive for comfort and durability in packs; they are built to be functional, useful tools in many styles of living and traveling.

The four basic levels of packdom are: day and book packs, rucksacks, framed sacks, and rigid frame packs. (A fifth category may follow soon—more about that in the next catalog. . .) All of these share one prime design imperative—that they adapt as comfortably as possible to the natural contours of your back, and allow you to carry light or heavy loads without strain. The ability to adjust the harness and belt, raising and lowering the load to its most balanced level, is also very important.

Durability is a function of high quality materials and strong, well reinforced construction. We reinforce all stress points with bar tacks, arrow tacks, leather plates, boxed X-tacks, and double seams. We use 8.0 ounce Super K-Koted® nylon duck, one of the strongest weaves made, in all packs except the Kaksack, which features 11 ounce cordura for additional abrasion resistance. We use only full grain, rough side out leather (full grain means the outside of the skin, which is significantly stronger than split grain, leather which is “split” from the inside of the hide), in pack bottoms, accessory patches, and zipper tabs. The standard cord used to close the Kaksack, Wrapac and Guide Pack is #3½, 300 pound test, kernmantle construction (as used in quality climbing rope.) The grommets, buckles, webbing, and velcro are all selected for their durability under hard usage.

Weather protection is an often-neglected facet of pack design. The smooth coil zippers which close all pockets, and the back panel of the Ruthsac and Packsack, are covered by generously overlapping weather flaps that work. The waterproof coated fabrics will repel heavy rain and sleet, though if you drop your pack in a stream, some leakage is to be expected.

Carrying heavy loads comfortably is easier when you can control and vary the distribution of weight between your hips and your shoulders. You need to change the distribution

occasionally to rest the muscles of your shoulders and hips. The harness suspension of the North Face pack and frame and Ruthsac is, for many people, the most comfortable system yet developed. Conventional systems give you a single adjustment, at the bottom of the harness pad, while ours gives you three. As illustrated in the photo, this gives you control of 1) how close to your back the pack rides, and 2) how far over your shoulder the pad is extended. Additionally, the greater freedom of motion for your shoulders allows you to walk more naturally without objectionable sway. The steadily increasing popularity of the pack and frame is partly based on the exceptional carry developed by this suspension.





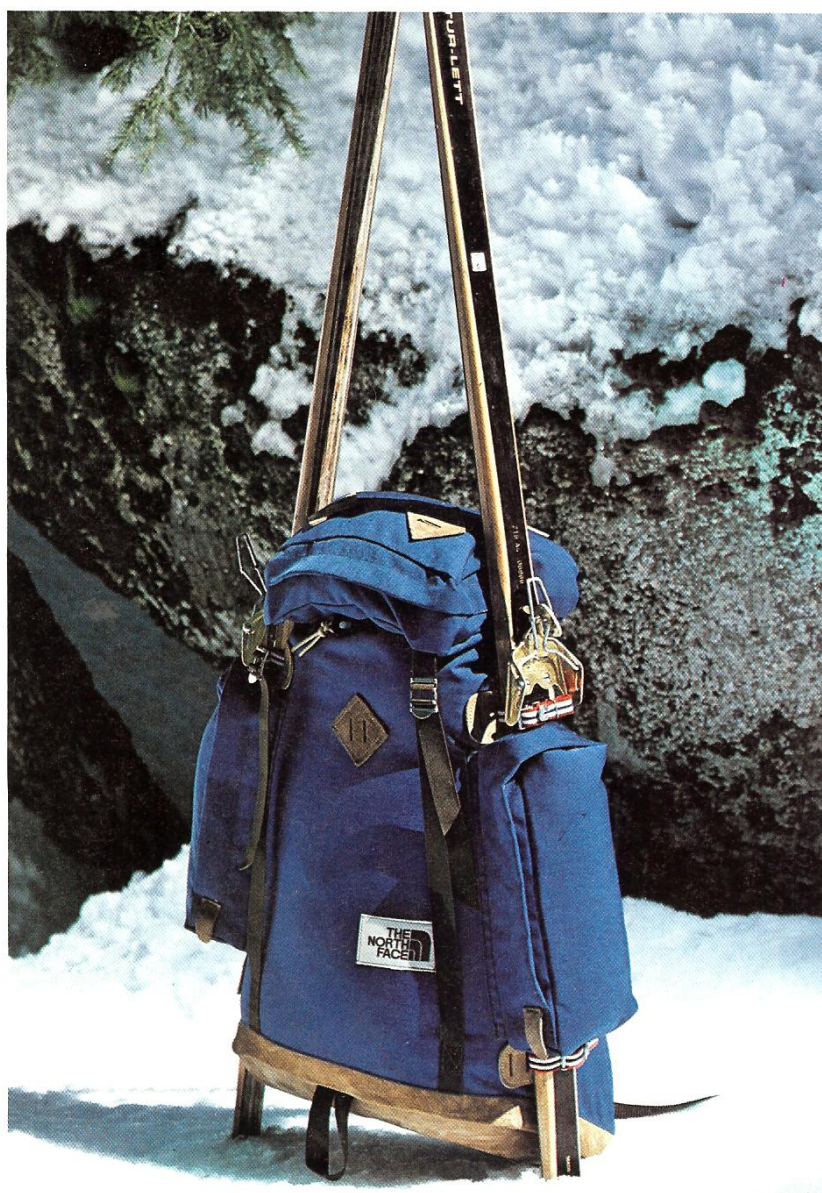
## KAKSACK

Wrap-around pack designs have one significant advantage over rigid frame packs—they hold the load much closer to the wearer's center of gravity. Your normal posture changes to compensate for the unaccustomed weight of a pack on your back; normally a slight forward lean serves to balance the new center of gravity over your feet. Since the mass you carry is closer to your center of gravity with a wrap-around design, you don't have to lean so far and your balance is closer to "normal."

Most wrap-around designs are frameless sacks which you strap directly to your body. They must be carefully packed to be "lumpless" against your back, and in conditions above 40° they will trap moisture between the sack and your back. For backpacking, they represent the state of the art before the development of the rigid aluminum frame.

Which is why the Kaksack is frame-suspended. The belt and harness attach to a vertically contoured, tensionally bowed fiberglass frame mounted in the sack. The advantages of the wrapped-around shape are retained, and the problems of moisture buildup and no-lumps packing are eliminated.

The Kaksack is a large volume 58.5 liters (3574 cu. in.), single compartment pack, with a height of 64.8 cm (25½"). The top opening has a diameter of 43.2 cm (17"), and is closed with a drawstring and a fixlock; the flap pocket opens with a covered coil zipper. The pockets are permanently attached, and the ski sleeves beneath them are large enough for mountaineering skis. The belt is 7.6 cm (3") wide at the back and ensolite padded, tapering to strong, 5.1 cm (2") webbing and a strong aluminum buckle. The length from harness to belt may be adjusted over three positions for precise fitting; and the fiberglass stiffener may be removed if a soft pack is desired.



The Kaksack is a superior pack for ski mountaineering, and offers frame suspension comfort for summer backpacking—an omni-functional wrap-around pack.

Colors: Royal blue, tan

Volume: 58.5 liters (3574 cu. in.)

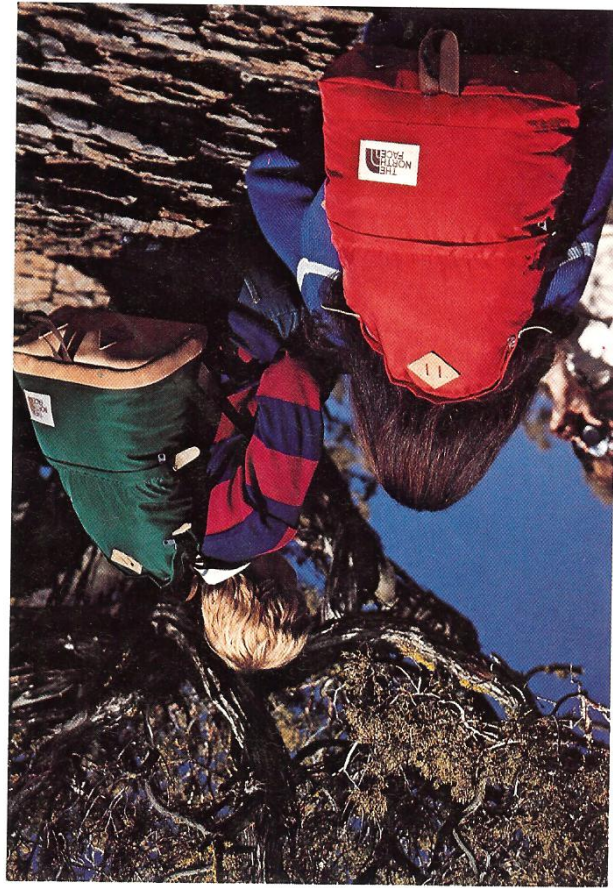
2094 g (4 lbs 5 oz)

\$ 57.50



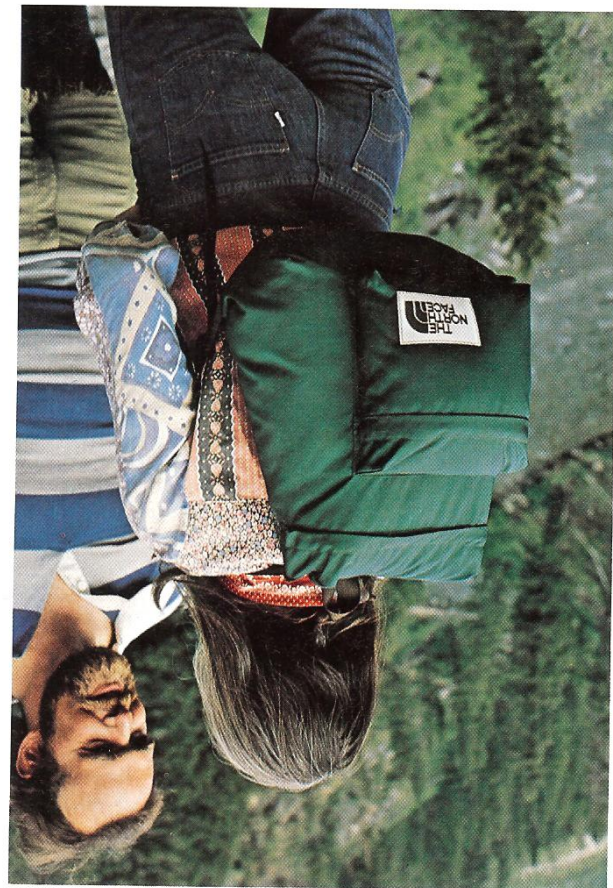
## DAY PACK

The convenience, utility, light weight and incredible strength of this pack have made it one of our most popular designs. Streamlined and teardrop shaped, it stays close to your back in climbing and bicycling, and the double compartments allow you to carry a lot or a little in comfort. They open with smooth coil zippers that are protected by weather flaps 19 liters (1160 cu. in.), sufficient for picnics, day hikes, photo tips, birding, geology trips—the harness pads are 1.27 cm (.5") thick felt backed by nylon webbing; the adjustment buckles are reinforced by triple "box X" tacking, and a fully adjustable belly band of 2.54 cm (1") webbing eliminates swaying when you want to



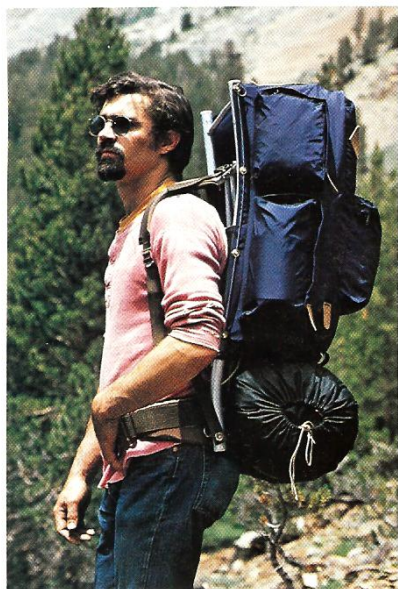
## POQUITO

boogie. The fabric is our standard 8.0 oz. Super K Koted® nylon duck, long lived and abrasion resistant; the pack is sold with either a double nylon bottom or one of full grain, rough out leather. Colors: Orange, navy blue, forest green Volume: 19 liters (1160 cu. in.) Nylon bottom 453 g (16 oz) \$ 22.50 Leather bottom 566 g (20 oz) \$ 25.00 Poquito means the little one; that's a bit misleading when you consider the volume of this single



compartment book and day pack, over 18 liters (1100 cu. in.). Unlike most other book packs, the Poquito has covered coil zippers for excellent rain resistance. The weight—241 grams (8.5 oz)—makes it perfect for day-hiking away from your pack and frame, and it will roll down to about 6.4 cm x 15.2 cm (2.5" x 6") for storage. The straps are a soft, 5 cm (2") wide nylon webbing, and the large zippered pocket on the back measures 15.2 cm x 19.7 cm x 6.4 cm (6" x 7¾" x 2½"). The strength, simplicity, and large capacity of the little one have made it a best buy in its range. Colors: As available Volume: 18 liters (1100 cu. in.) 241 g (8.5 oz) \$ 12.00





## PACK AND FRAME

The uniqueness of the North Face Pack and Frame is best experienced on the trail with a heavy load. Notice how your shoulders are free to move in cadence with your steps, instead of "splinted" rigidly to the frame? How the pack seems to hover behind you, instead of working against your every movement? A few miles further on, when one set of muscles begins a quiet protest, notice how a minor adjustment of the suspension to change the weight distribution eases the strain?

The comfort—or discomfort—of a pack and frame with a heavy load depends entirely upon the suspension of the pack, the belt and harness system. Many people have found the North Face cross harness to be the most comfortable available; the adjustment variability provided by the three point system allows you to fine tune the carry to your particular cadence and rhythm of walking. (see photo, page 38). The wide, closed-cell vinyl foam-padded belt comfortably accepts and transfers as much of the load as you want to carry on your hips and the pelvic shelf of your lower back. The mesh backband allows the circulation of air necessary to keep your back cool and dry.

A recent Forest Service evaluation



of frame packs, conducted in Idaho, concluded that this frame was the strongest in their sample—which included representative frames from the "big 3" as well as our own. D-rings mounted in the vertical members below the packsack allow you to strap your bag directly to the frame instead of to the sack.

The packsack is large, and supported in part by an integral hold-open bar. A covered coil zipper allows you to pack and unpack quickly and efficiently, while the five outside pockets add capacity and convenience. Heavy items may be carried on top

of the sack via leather accessory patches. The North Face Pack and Frame is a refined, efficient, no-nonsense design—the most comfortable and versatile rigid frame pack available today.

Colors: Orange, navy blue, forest green

Small

Volume: 54.8 liters (3348 cu. in.)  
1897 g (4 lbs 3 oz)

Large

Volume: 63.75 liters (3892 cu. in.)  
2038 g (4 lbs 8 oz) \$ 70.00





## WRAPAC

The Wrapac is a radically shaped rucksack designed to take advantage of the natural contours of your body in holding and balancing a load very close to your back. The Wrapac is probably the best balancing ski touring rucksack available today.

The Wrapac harness is padded with 1.3 cm (1/2") thick felt, backed by strong nylon webbing. There is a 8.9 cm (3 1/2") wide leather plate sewn into the top of the canvas back panel for harness attachment and reinforcement. The canvas back panel facilitates the dissipation of any moisture buildup. Two pockets, one in the flap and one outside, are helpful for organizing waxes, maps, corks, scrapers, goodies and so on. (Never keep your klister and your jelly beans in the same place!)

Two tubes of 6061 T6 aluminum alloy seat in the forward corners and leading edge of the sack, to maintain the proper carrying characteristics while the sack is near empty, or full of rope and iron.

Colors: Orange, navy blue, forest green

Volume: 41.3 liters (2520 cu. in.)

991 g (2 lbs 3 oz)

\$ 42.50



## GUIDEPACK

The Guidepack is a traditional rucksack, large enough for a complete weekend outfit, with four outside pockets, padded shoulder straps, and a single large top-opening compartment measuring 53 cm x 14 cm x 33 cm (21" x 5 1/2" x 13"). The volume is approximately 39 liters (2382 cu. in.) or about twice that of our Day Packs. The strong, well reinforced North Face construction, with the full grain rough out leather bottom, makes for lifetime strength and durability. The top flap is a zippered map pocket; it covers the sack throat, which is closed with a drawcord and fixlock. For those who prefer many pockets, the Guidepack does the job.

Colors: Orange, navy blue, forest green

Volume: 39 liters (2382 cu. in.)

907 g (2 lbs)

\$ 37.50



## THE NORTH FACE GUARANTEE

All North Face products are unconditionally guaranteed to the original owner against defects in materials and workmanship. If a product fails due to a manufacturing defect, even after extended use, we will repair the product without charge, or replace it at our option.

Repairs due to accident, improper care, or negligence, where we are not at fault, will be performed for a nominal charge. Please return the product to your dealer, or to the North Face Repair Department, 1000 Harrison Street, Berkeley, California 94710. California state law requires that sleeping bags accepted for repairs be clean; there is a \$5.00 charge for cleaning when a dirty bag is repaired.

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*Jack Miller* – Front cover, p. 27(center rt., lower left and rt.), p. 30, p. 36(rt.), p. 37

*William Rodarmor* – p. 26, p. 27(upper, center left), inside back cover(left), back cover

*Jim Shirley* – p. 11, p. 16, p. 19, p. 28(lower), p. 35(lower)

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All other photographs by *Dare*

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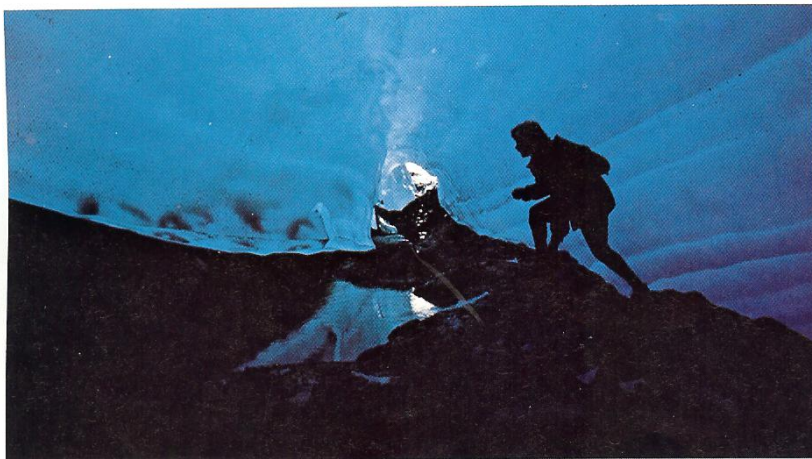
## METRIFY OR PETRIFY!

The dimensions and weights of the items in this catalog appear first in metric units, then in their English equivalent. At present it appears that the United States will be the last of the world's nations to adopt the more precise and logical metric system. It's time that pounds, pints, inches and miles went the way of the dodo—they're cumbersome and inefficient, a barrier to communication; in short, obsolete.

**PRICES AND SPECIFICATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.**







## the 1975 ice-nine award

"Now suppose," chortled Dr. Breed, enjoying himself, "that there were many possible ways in which water could crystallize, could freeze. Suppose that the sort of ice we skate upon and put into highballs — what we might call ice-one — is only one of several types of ice. Suppose water always froze as ice-one because it never had a seed to teach it how to form ice-two, ice-three, ice-four. . . ? And suppose that there were one form, which we will call ice-nine, with a melting point of, let us say, one-hundred degrees Fahrenheit, or, better still, a melting point of one-hundred-and-thirty degrees."

"All right, I'm still with you," I said.

"Suppose that one threw a tiny seed of ice-nine, a new way for the atoms of water to stack and lock, to freeze, into the nearest puddle. . . ?"

"The puddle would freeze?" I guessed.

"And all the muck around the puddle?"

"It would freeze? What about the rivers and lakes the streams fed?"

"They'd freeze. But there is no such thing as ice-nine."

"And the oceans the frozen rivers fed?"

"They'd freeze, of course," he snapped.

"I tell you again, it does not exist!"

"And the springs feeding the frozen lakes and streams, and all the water underground feeding the springs?"

"They'd freeze, damn it!" he cried.

"And the rain?"

"When it fell, it would freeze into hard little hobnails of ice-nine — and that would be the end of the world!"

Dr. Breed was mistaken about at least one thing: there was such a thing as ice-nine. And ice-nine was on earth.

— Cat's Cradle, Kurt Vonnegut.

On behalf of the next 10,000 generations of humans to inhabit Planet Earth, we would like to bestow this little snowman upon the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) of the United States of America, which, in the name of "clean energy," has already overseen the production of at least 400,000 tons of highly radioactive nuclear waste, now in storage at various locations in the U.S. There are many rare substances to be found in the AEC's highly specialized "garbage," but any one of them, taken alone, gives an idea of the AEC's remarkable achievement and demonstrates just how much the Commission deserves this year's Ice-Nine Award: one-millionth of one gram of the isotope Plutonium 239, for example, can cause lung cancer . . . one-thousandth of a gram will kill you (for comparison, an aspirin tablet equals one gram) . . . in a year's time, a single nuclear power plant creates about 6,000,000 grams of Plutonium 239. Then, of course, consider Iodine 129, with a "half-life" of 17 million years — if ingested, it collects in the thyroid gland and remains there forever, bombarding surrounding tissues with cancer-producing radiation. One might also mention Strontium 90, which accumulates in bone cells, and likewise Cesium 137, which emits radiation capable of penetrating anything short of a thick lead shield.

The Ice-Nine Award also shows our deep appreciation for the AEC's support of the Price-Anderson Act of 1957, a Federal law that restricts an electric power company's liabilities for a large-scale nuclear accident. A study commissioned and later suppressed by the AEC in 1965 showed that a major nuclear accident would kill 45,000 people immediately, seriously injure another 100,000, and would cause roughly 17-billion dollars damage. The AEC was talking about relatively small atomic power plants back then — a radiation leak of only one percent from the Barnwell Nuclear Fuel Plant in South Carolina (scheduled to begin operation in 1976) would permanently poison over 30,000 square miles of land, causing perhaps 10-billion dollars damage. The Price-Anderson Act limits liability for such a catastrophe to 560-million dollars, most of which would come from the Federal government. There remains the inevitability of less "serious" radiation — besides emissions from the plant itself, there will be a slow, constant leakage from trucks and trains carrying nuclear materials to and from the Barnwell facility (one such shipment will originate in Portland, Oregon, following a route not yet publicly known).

Finally, we offer one more reason why the Atomic Energy Commission has undoubtedly earned its silent snowman: while responsibility for low-level waste lies with the increasing number of power companies producing it, the AEC has thoughtfully built enormous storage tanks for high-level wastes, locating them in unpopulated areas of the United States. The grim irony is that nothing, absolutely nothing can yet be done to deactivate what waits patiently inside the AEC's "trash cans"; no chemical or physical process has been devised to reduce its toxic strength, which will last for the next 250,000 years, and none of the dumping schemes so far proposed (ranging from huge missiles shot toward the sun to burial at sea) offer much hope of success.

The first accident at the AEC's main storage center near Hanford, Washington, occurred in 1973, when 115,000 gallons of liquid nuclear waste escaped into the soil (the leak went undetected for 51 days) . . . the second leak at Hanford happened in April of 1975 . . . according to estimates by the Federal government, by the year 2010 there will be 15 railroad cars moving radioactive materials somewhere in the U.S. at any one time, vulnerable to sabotage, theft, or derailment . . . the Oil, Chemical, and Gas Workers Union in 1975 warned of safety violations in an Oklahoma plutonium plant (twenty of 39 charges were substantiated by Federal investigators) . . . in 1974, an airport cargo-handler in Houston, Texas, burned his leg when a medical shipment of Molybdenum 99 leaked aboard a plane . . . two nuclear reactors were half-built before the AEC found out about earthquake faults beneath them. . .

It is simply a matter of time.

For more information on nuclear power, contact:  
Union of Concerned Scientists, 1208 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 01238



